

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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PRAVDA CONTRASTS USSR, U.S. DISARMAMENT STANCES

PM031721 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[V. Kuznetsov article: "The Reference Point Is Europe's Security"]

[Text] What next? This is the question Europeans and people throughout the world are asking now that Washington, by starting to deploy new nuclear missiles in the NATO countries, has torpedoed the Geneva talks with the USSR on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe.

The Soviet Union, as the statement by Yu V Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, says, calls on the leaders of the United States and the states of the West to weigh once again all the consequences threatening their own peoples and all mankind as a result of the implementation of the plans to deploy new U.S. missiles on the European Continent.

But they are unwilling to weigh the consequences of this reckless step. The thoughts of Atlantic politicians and of Pentagon and NATO strategists are turning in another direction now. They extol the "Atlantic solidarity" of the Pentagon's nuclear hostages, most of which simply have had their arms twisted after receiving the suicidal weapons. They amuse themselves with vain illusions that they will succeed in "returning" the USSR to the negotiating table on NATO's terms and in "dismantling" the antinuclear movement by forcing it to accept the "arms upgrading."

Sobriety of critical -- and, even less, so, self-critical -- analysis are not high in the esteem of the NATO states. There is instead, an abundance of demagoguery, hypocrisy, and perfidy.

They are thinking about how to remove the tag of planners of a "limited" nuclear war in Europe from the NATO image, how to justify themselves before the Europeans, and how to foist the U.S. version of the fruitlessness of the Geneva talks on them.

They are thinking about how to "harness" Belgium and the Netherlands to the Pentagon's yoke and how to extinguish all the seats of resistance to the dangerous plans within NATO.

They are thinking about how to force neutron and the latest chemical weapons into Europe in wake of the nuclear missiles and how to attain military superiority not only in nuclear but also in conventional weapons.

They are hastening to cast a camouflage net over the Pershing and cruise missiles and the latest militaristic preparations. The entire NATO propaganda apparatus is serving the massive "operation reassurance". The NATO sirens have sweet voices. What tongue twisting there is by those who speak of peace, stability, and security after jeopardizing or helping to jeopardize the values which Europe holds dear above all else!

FRG Foreign Minister H. D. Genscher, striving for "new ways and means" to consolidate security, rejects the idea of creating nuclear-free zones in Europe which is so popular in the continent, the constructive Soviet program of military detente for Europe, and the renunciation of the first use of nuclear and conventional weapons. What remains, in this case, from the minister's deliberations on lofty matters? Nothing but the "zero option," so to speak.

Hypocrisy has been NATO's second nature from the moment of its creation. It became especially obvious at the time when the so-called Harmel "two-track formula" (named after Belgium's former foreign minister) was adopted in 1977, which attempted to combine the uncombinable -- detente and the pursuit of military superiority.

Even now the deployment of new U.S. nuclear missiles is being accompanied by "signals of the West's readiness for dialogue and cooperation." They are proclaiming that the West will take the initiative to elaborate "an all-embracing, long-term, and viable form of detente policy in relations with the Soviet Union." And so on and so forth. They want to duplicate the "two-track decision" and give it a second life. They want to try once more to see if they can confuse even a part of the West European public and the mass antinuclear movement. The scenario is as follows: The West European allies will address their Washington patron with the humble request that it change the tone in relations with the USSR, and it will graciously agree to do what, in fact, costs it nothing. The NATO hypocrites are already enacting yet another spectacular show of ostentatious optimism and would-be love of peace on the hastily formed Atlantic stage.

"We are prepared to resume the talks at any moment," can be heard from the White House, the State Department, and even the Pentagon. U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger loudly assures people that the prospects for reaching agreement on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe now, following the appearances of Pershing II and cruise missiles on its soil, are, supposedly, better than ever before.

Could it be that people in Washington have changed their minds and have started to incline toward restoring the situation to what it was prior to the missile deployment? No, nothing of the kind. Could it be that they are feeling pangs of conscience and are now regretting having offered the Soviet Union an obviously unacceptable proposal? The answer is also no. So what is happening? The point is that they want to justify in retrospect the obstructionist position they maintained in Geneva over the 2 years of talks and to weaken the resistance to their policy among the public and even within NATO circles.

For over a year the U.S. delegation in Geneva insisted on the "zero option," which was obviously unacceptable for the USSR. Afterward, bearing in mind world public opinion and the allies' requests to soften his rigid position, R. Reagan sprinkled "holy water" over the still-born project on three occasions -- in March, September, and November 1983 -- in an attempt to revive it.

Nevertheless, the "zero" and its refurbished options -- the "interim" and the "modified" ones -- are like identical twins. This is not surprising since they have one and the same "mother" -- the desire to wreck the balance of forces in Europe and acquire military superiority, and the doctrine of "limited" nuclear war on the continent. All the White House did was to move from one "standstill" to another. All it agreed to do was reduce the scale of the planned deployment of the new missiles but by no means did it agree to abandon the deployment of new nuclear systems and the attempts to disrupt the military parity in Europe. When examining the balance of forces in Europe, the U.S. Administration has persistently ignored such of its inalienable components as the U.S. forward-based means and the British and French nuclear arms.

"Zero" American-style -- and that is it! This is essentially what Washington's position was from the first to the last day of the Geneva talks.

Along with Washington, its closest allies also insisted on the "zero option" to the end. Disclosing the "senior partner's" cards, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared in September 1983: "We must begin the deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles until such time as we accomplish the acceptance of the 'zero option' at these talks." "The goal of the talks remains the achievement of the 'zero solution,'" FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl stated categorically.

While the USSR persistently sought a way to find agreement in Geneva, the United States, by insisting on the 'zero option,' only created a deadlock situation and, maintaining it, sat things out until the start of the planned deployment.

After all this, Washington still claims that it was conducting "serious" talks, that it occupied a "flexible" position, and that the Soviet Union was, supposedly, unwilling to sit at the same table with the United States. But what are they asking the USSR to do now -- to "return" to a table surrounded by a growing palisade of missiles, a table on which there is nothing but the Reagan "zero" for the Soviet Union?

The real attitude of the incumbent U.S. Administration toward disarmament talks is well known. No matter how much Washington's West European advocates may assert its "interest" in specific agreements with the USSR on curbing the arms race, this is nothing but either self-deception or deliberate deception of the public. A far more sober view in this connection is held by the U.S. newspaper THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR which, in an analytical editorial, concluded that the White House administration "does not deem it a politically urgent task to reach a disarmament agreement with the Soviet Union either next year or after the end of Reagan's first term."

The peace-loving public can present Washington with a long list of missed opportunities to curb the arms race. Washington has broken off the talks on a total nuclear test ban, on banning and eliminating chemical weapons, on limiting deliveries and sales of conventional arms, and on curbing military activity in the Indian Ocean.

The Washington leaders are unwilling to negotiate a ban on the deployment of any weapons-including antisatellite weapons, in outer space.

Ruling circles in the United States and other North Atlantic bloc countries are not responding to the proposal to conclude a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO, to agree not to expand either alliance's sphere of action to Asia, Africa, and Latin America, or to agree not to increase and, subsequently, to reduce military expenditure.

People in the United States and the other NATO countries are unwilling to follow the USSR's example by pledging not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. They are boycotting the idea of freezing all nuclear arms and creating nuclear-free zones in different parts of the world.

Washington is blocking the reaching of agreement in Geneva at the talks to limit and reduce strategic arms. At the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe, the United States and its allies have been avoiding a reasonable agreement for over 10 years now. At the United Nations and in the Geneva Disarmament Committee, Washington is either procrastinating or rejecting many constructive proposals by other countries.

The White House now views disarmament talks as a burden, as an encroachment on the program for the "comprehensive rearmament of America." Or else -- in isolated cases -- it views them as a forced concession to world opinion or a screen to cover up militarist preparations.

Europe's peoples are rejecting the Pentagon plan to turn the western part of the continent into a bridgehead for "limited" nuclear war. The mass antinuclear movement has not wavered or retreated in the face of the Pentagon's nuclear missile assault. It is now entering a new state of the struggle with the goal of halting and reversing the "arms upgrading," defending Europe's security, and doing everything to ensure that its development take the path of detente and constructive cooperation.

The Soviet Union is totally aware of the significance of the fact that detente in Europe has been and remains an asset of truly worldwide import and a bulwark of universal peace and international security.

Proceeding from this, in its 29 December 1983 resolution the USSR Supreme Soviet instructed the Soviet Government "to continue the line of ensuring the security of the Soviet Union and its allies and to continue to take the necessary steps which, in view of the current circumstances, would lead to a change in the international situation for the better; and to actively follow this line also at the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures and on security and disarmament in Europe." This conference, which opens in the Swedish capital 17 January, will show whether the United States and the other NATO states are prepared to take into account the will of the peoples, including their own peoples, and to give an intelligible and businesslike response to the constructive proposals by the USSR and its allies.

The peace-loving public acclaim the resolve of the USSR and its allies to see things through to the continent's complete liberation from all types of nuclear weapons. A nuclear-free instead of a "supernuclear" Europe -- this is the reference point for all who are in favor of peace and security and curbing the arms race.

CHERVOV ON MAINTAINING MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM

LD021533 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 2 TASS -- Washington's calculations to upset the military equilibrium between the USSR and the USA, the Warsaw Treaty and NATO are illusory, stresses Colonel General Nikolay Chervov. In his article in the first issue this year of the journal AGITATOR, a publication of the CPSU Central Committee, Colonel General Chervov cites specific facts and figures to prove that on its part the USSR has never violated the principle of equality and equal security. The existence of a strategic equilibrium between the USSR and the USA was repeatedly verified in the process of drawing up the SALT-2 treaty and officially recognised by both sides. Even according to official American data, the author points out, the USSR and the USA have a roughly equal number of warheads in ballistic missiles -- 7,500 warheads each. But the USA has four times as many long-range cruise missiles (it is planned to have a total of 8,000 units of them).

Touching upon the claims being spread in the West about an overwhelming superiority of the USSR as regards medium-range weapons in Europe, Chervov is drawing attention to the fact that it is pretended that NATO does not have such means in Europe. "The USA," the general writes, "refuses to take into consideration at the talks the American forward-based weapons and the nuclear weapons of Britain and France. One cannot help asking in this connection in what weapons are in full readiness more than 3,000 American, British and French nuclear warheads, which are capable of hitting targets in the territory of the Soviet Union and its allies?"

Chervov is citing the following figures: NATO has in Europe a total of 162 sea and land-based missiles and nearly 700 aircraft -- medium-range delivery vehicles. Their range of operation (from 1,000 to 4,500 kilometres) makes it possible to reach targets in the USSR's territory up to the Urals. This NATO grouping is opposed by the USSR with SS-20, SS-4 missiles and medium-range bombers, their total number being 938 units. The author stresses that the "speculation to the effect that more than 400 warheads in these missiles, which are targeted on the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, shall not be included into the balance of forces on the NATO side, is, to put it mildly, not serious... These missiles exist, and it is also clear what they exist for. It is precisely the USA which has turned the question of British and French nuclear missiles into a stumbling block at the talks, clearly striving to protract them and then, referring to 'intransigence of the Russians', to deploy its missiles in Europe."

The author points out that the start of deployment of the American missiles at once upsets the military equilibrium in NATO's favour both in Europe and on the global scale.

A dangerous step upsetting the equilibrium, which shaped, [as received] has been made. "The Soviet Government has weighed all aspects of the obtaining situation and adopted a number of decisions directed at strengthening its own security and the security of its allies.... To put it in a nutshell, as was declared earlier, we will not let the military strategic balance, which shaped, [as received] to be broken, and will always give a proper answer."

"At the same time the USSR declares as before for a most radical resolution of the question of nuclear weapons in Europe. It reiterates its proposal to deliver Europe from nuclear weapons in general -- both from medium-range and tactical ones. The point is only that the statesmen of the Western countries should take a common sense view, appraise with all responsibility what is happening and take a rational decision," General Chervov writes in conclusion.

DEPLOYMENT SHOWS U.S. MILITARIST NATURE

LDO31547 Moscow World Service in English 1410 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] It has been officially confirmed that the first consignment of medium-range nuclear missiles brought by the United States to Western Europe were made operational on the eve of the new year. Here is what Radio Moscow commentator Yuriy Soltan writes:

Washington makes no secret of the fact that the new missiles are meant for delivering the first disarming strike at targets in the socialist countries. However, there are signs that those are not the only targets on the maps of the American command. This is borne out by the Pentagon directives. According to press reports, those directives say that the United States Armed Forces should be ready for conducting both a protracted nuclear war and short, local nuclear wars in various regions. The Pershings and Tomahawks now being sited in Western Europe can reach the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Pentagon, however, plans to deploy them not only in Europe, but also in the Far East, in the Indian and Pacific Ocean areas, in South Africa and near the shores of Latin America. Heavy bombers and submarines will be equipped with cruise missiles of longer range. They will also be stationed at American bases on the territories of other countries. And in all cases, whether the matter in question is Western Europe or other parts of the world, it is the United States alone that will be deciding when to use the missiles.

And if today President Reagan automatically seizes the gun and sends troops to strangle free Grenada under the pretext of protecting the Americans there, or orders to bomb villages in Lebanon, there is no guarantee that tomorrow some other country would not be sacrificed in order to ensure America's so-called vital interests. And who can say where the nuclear tornado starts which will inevitably sweep through all the continents? By beginning the deployment of new nuclear missiles in Western Europe and by planning to site them also in other regions, the Reagan administration openly demonstrates the militarist nature of its foreign policy. The objective of that policy is to try and ensure the United States' dominating positions in the world in disregard of the interests of other countries and at the risk of a nuclear war. That objective is unattainable, but that does not make it less dangerous.

At its session on the eve of the new year, the Soviet parliament denounced that policy. It urged the United States Congress and the parliaments of the other NATO countries to do everything they can to make the governments in their countries renounce the policy from the positions of strength which is dangerous to peace, and renounce the attempts to gain military superiority.

The only possible way for strengthening peace and security in the present conditions is recognizing in practice the principle of equality and equal security and seeking mutually acceptable agreements on that basis.

NEW TIMES ON EUROMISSILE THREAT TO W. EUROPE

PM031518 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 51, Dec 83 pp 5-7

[Viktor Vasilyev article: "The Evidence of the Facts"]

[Text] The years of the Soviet-American talks on limitation of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe were long years of waiting for an agreement that would substantially lower the level of the East-West nuclear confrontation in an area where both world wars began. But the expectations and hopes of the peoples of Europe and the other continents were disappointed. They did not materialize because the talks were torpedoed by the present U.S. Administration when it began the deployment of its missiles in a number of West European countries.

It is now becoming clear that the appearance in Europe of the Pershings and cruise missiles has lessened, not increased, confidence between states belonging to the two different world systems; narrowed, not expanded, opportunities for the positive evolution of their relations. It has further aggravated international tension. Washington's move has increased the nuclear threat to the U.S.S.R. At the same time the deployment of the U.S. missiles in Europe does not heighten the security of the West European countries, as the architects of the NATO decision contend. On the contrary, it contains a very real danger that the U.S. might bring disaster upon the peoples of Europe.

It is only natural that people should ask whether there was any possibility of an agreement being reached and through whose fault were the talks broken off. And is this dangerous trend of events irreversible?

At the winter session of the leading NATO bodies which proceeded in an atmosphere of militarist hysteria and rabid anti-Sovietism, the leaders of the bloc gave their answer to these questions. On the one hand, they did their utmost to justify the deployment of the new U.S. missiles by invoking the threat supposedly presented by the Soviet SS-20 missiles, and sought to lay the blame for the failure of the talks on the Soviet Union which allegedly wanted to retain its "monopoly" on medium-range missiles. On the other hand, they tried to reassure the public by claiming that the talks could easily be resumed and that all that NATO wants is equivalence at the lowest possible level.

However, the facts testify to something altogether different: that Washington did not seek a mutually acceptable agreement but was out to upset the parity between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty which had objectively served the cause of European security, and to gain unilateral military advantages. The U.S. agreed to negotiate in order to reassure the other NATO countries that it would live up to its commitment to engage in talks, and at the same time used them as a cover for testing and quantity production of Pershing II and cruise missiles.

First fact. The question of medium-range nuclear missiles arose long before the SS-20 missiles had appeared on the scene. It came up at a time when the Soviet Union had no nuclear weapons and the United States had already stationed its bombers carrying atom bombs at bases in Britain. Later, hundreds of nuclear-capable medium bombers, which came to be described as "forward-based" weaponry, were deployed close to the frontiers of the Soviet Union. In addition to these American weapons, Britain and France acquired their own nuclear armouries.

To counterbalance the U.S., British and French nuclear missiles and medium-range bombers, the Soviet Union deployed on its territory the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles. The SS-20 appeared as a response to the constant modernization by the NATO powers of their medium-range nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union had to modernize its own missiles. The SS-20 was introduced to replace the older missiles and in no way altered the rough balance.

The point is that for every two SS-20's deployed, the Soviet Union simultaneously dismantled three SS-4's and SS-5's. As a result, instead of the 600 missiles it once had in Europe, it now has only 473. The total yield of their warheads was reduced by nearly half. True, the number of warheads increased, but if all the nuclear weapons on all types of medium-range carriers are taken into account, NATO still has a 1.5:1 advantage. And it is not the missiles and aircraft in themselves that present the danger. The destructive power of nuclear weapons is concentrated in the warheads and bombs. In other words, if anyone has any cause for disquiet in respect of medium-range nuclear weapons, it is the Warsaw Treaty countries.

Nevertheless, taking all the factors into account, we can say that a rough equivalence of medium-range nuclear strength emerged in Europe. The Warsaw Treaty countries have the advantage in missiles and warheads and NATO in nuclear-capable aircraft and, as pointed out above, in the overall number of nuclear weapons.

The deployment of the new U.S. missiles in Europe sharply changes the balance not only on the European Continent, but on a global scale, for each new U.S. missile adds to the 1.5:1 superiority of NATO in nuclear warheads.

Washington is trying to make it appear as if the Soviet Union's opposition to the deployment in Europe of the new U.S. missiles is prompted by a desire to retain a "monopoly" of medium-range nuclear missiles. Yet it is well known that Britain and France too have their own missiles with a radius of action ranging from over 3,000 to 4,500 kilometers. These missiles carry not one, but several warheads. Thus, as regards their tactical and technical characteristics, the British and French missiles are fully comparable to the Soviet medium-range missiles.

As regards monopoly, it must be borne in mind that the U.S. enjoys such monopoly in medium-range carriers. It has in Europe over 650 bombers with a radius ranging from 1,100 to 2,000 kilometres. A glance at the map will show that a substantial part of the European territory of the U.S.S.R. is within this distance of the United States' air bases and aircraft carriers. At the same time Soviet medium-range missiles, not to speak of medium bombers, cannot reach U.S. territory.

Second fact. It is not the imaginary striving of the Soviet Union to retain the missile "monopoly," but the real U.S. drive for military superiority that brought the talks to a dead end.

The "zero option" Washington offered envisaged renunciation by the U.S. of the deployment of its new missiles in Europe in exchange for the scrapping by the Soviet Union of all of its medium-range missiles. At first glance it might have seemed that this was a way to achieve equivalence, but equality was the last thing the offer implied. In practical terms, it meant no missiles for the U.S.S.R. and no reduction on the part of NATO

Acceptance of the "zero option" would have left the Soviet Union with only 465 bombers in Europe, while NATO would have had 695 bombers and the 162 British and French missiles. The 1.5:1 preponderance of NATO in nuclear warheads would have increased to a nearly threefold superiority.

The Washington stratagem was aimed at leaving the bombers and the British and French missiles out of count in calculating the medium-range weapons balance. Was this justified in any way? Certainly not. The West could advance no coherent arguments in support of its position.

It is a well-known fact that the NATO countries are bound by political and military commitments in the event of war.

The British and French missiles are in Europe and, like the U.S. nuclear weapons, they are targeted at the Soviet Union. The NATO countries have time and again declared that they consider their defences to be indivisible. This was repeated in the final document of the NATO Council session just over, which speaks of "collective security" guarantees for the members of the bloc, including nuclear guarantees. All this fully justifies the Soviet Union's approach to the NATO countries' medium-range nuclear weaponry in the European zone as an integral whole.

The Soviet Union naturally could not accept a proposal which did not take into account the British and French missiles of the bomber NATO has in Europe. Was Washington aware of the absurdity of its position? It could not but be, and eventually it did drop the "zero option." But the fact alone that the U.S. Administration came to the negotiating table with such a proposal revealed the total absence of any desire on its part to seek agreement on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

The "interim" variant was basically no different. The idea was that the Soviet Union would be allowed to retain some of its missiles after the reductions, but only exactly as many as the United States would station in Europe. This was said to be a "fair balance" that would put an end to the Soviet "monopoly." But again the British and French missiles were bypassed. Under the "interim" variant NATO would have had in the European zone twice as many nuclear warheads as the Soviet Union. And that was not all. One of the provisions of the modernized "interim" variant would have given the U.S. the right to deploy its medium-range missiles not only in Europe, but also in other parts of the world, from where they could reach Soviet territory and where the U.S. already has hundreds of medium-range nuclear-capable aircraft. By putting forward obviously unacceptable proposals, Washington deliberately led the talks deeper and deeper into an impasse.

Yet the objective openings for the achievement of agreement on a substantial reduction of medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe were there. They were provided by the sum of Soviet proposals.

The Soviet Union proposed reducing the nuclear weapon carriers by two thirds, with the object of achieving complete equality as regards missiles and aircraft as well as warheads and bombs.

In concrete terms the Soviet Union was prepared to reduce its missiles to a level with those of Britain and France. Considering that the British and French missiles carry 420-430 warheads, the Soviet Union voiced readiness to retain roughly 140 SS-20 missiles, each of which carries three warheads. This would have ensured complete equality as regards warheads. Moreover, the Soviet Union would have 22 missiles fewer than Britain and France.

Would proposals of this order undermine anyone's security? Of course not. On the contrary, they would make for parity, but at a lower level than at present. If Washington and the capitals of some other NATO countries were really alarmed by the alleged Soviet superiority, they would have had every reason to accept proposals that fully accord with the principle of equality and equal security. But they chose to steer another course.

The Soviet Union has demonstrated that it approaches negotiations in good faith, that it has sought agreement on the reduction of the numbers of missiles and aircraft while preserving parity. The present U.S. Administration, on the contrary, has shown itself to be a frivolous and unreliable negotiating partner.

Third fact. The beginning of the deployment of the U.S. Euromissiles is the beginning of the realization of Washington's plans to upset nuclear parity. The Soviet Union and its Warsaw Treaty allies cannot agree to this because the short flight time and high accuracy of these systems makes them first-strike weapons.

The socialist countries cannot but take into account the fact that President Reagan has declared a "crusade" against socialism, threatening to destroy it as a social system. He regards as "moral" all actions he believes can help the U.S. achieve its imperial ambitions. The present Washington administration is out to resolve political and ideological problems by means of armed force. Witness the invasion of freedom-loving Grenada and the widening scale of U.S. armed intervention in Lebanon. In its drive to bring the world under its domination, the U.S. is now going to such lengths that one cannot but wonder whether it has any inhibitory mechanism capable of preventing it from passing the point at which any thinking person would stop.

How, then, should the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Treaty allies react to the appearance next door of an American nuclear bludgeon intended for strikes at political, economic and military targets on their territories? Could they continue sitting at the negotiating table and thereby give their blessing, so to say, to the mounting threat to their security? Clearly, they could not.

In reply to the actions of the U.S. and the NATO countries that support it, the Soviet Union abrogated its unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in the European part of the U.S.S.R. By agreement with the Governments of the G.D.R. and Czechoslovakia, preparatory work for the deployment of Soviet operational-tactical missiles of increased range on their territory will be accelerated. By making themselves launching pads for the U.S. missiles, the NATO countries inevitably become a target for a retaliatory blow.

Steps are being taken to deploy corresponding Soviet systems in ocean areas and in seas off the coast of the United States. For range, yield and flight time these systems will be adequate to meet the threat presented by the U.S. missiles deployed in Europe.

Such, then, are the facts. They make it plain who it was that wrecked the talks and what the siting of the U.S. missiles in Europe could spell for the world.

As regards the wishes for speedy resumption of the talks voiced in NATO circles, the first question that arises is this: On what basis is this resumption visualized? So far the pronouncements of official Washington spokesmen show that the U.S. intends as before to press for the Soviet Union's consent to the deployment of the U.S. missiles in addition to the existing British and French missiles. The talks clearly demonstrated that no agreement can be achieved on this basis.

Consistently pursuing its policy of peaceful coexistence of countries with different social systems and striving to put an end to the arms race and bring about disarmament, the Soviet Union does not consider the present situation irreversible. It is not abandoning the idea of talks. But they can be conducted only in the proper conditions and certainly not when Washington takes a position-of-strength stance.

"Should the United States and the other NATO countries display readiness to return to the situation that existed before the beginning of the deployment of the American medium-range missiles in Europe," Yuriy Andropov said, "the Soviet Union will also be prepared to do the same." This fully applies to the Geneva talks.

Time has not yet run out for the NATO countries to weigh all the dangerous consequences with which the deployment of the U.S. missiles in Europe is fraught for the cause of peace.

U.S. MILITARY AMBITIONS IN FAR EAST ASSAILED

LDO31325 Moscow TASS in English 1214 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS -- TASS political analyst Boris Chekhonin writes: Even more alarming news reports are coming from Washington in the first days of the new year. On having adopted the decision to deploy Pershing II first-strike missiles in Western Europe the hotheaded strategists in the Pentagon are giving more frequent thought to the next no less peace-endangering step -- the expansion of their nuclear-missile potential in the Far East. It is not without reason that the Western press has already started mentioning time and again secret negotiations conducted by the United States with its Asian allies with the aim of deploying cruise missiles and other nuclear weapons on the territory of Japan and South Korea.

Even the very first analysis of Washington's militaristic ambitions shows that the press reports have a realistic basis. It is more than once that Washington has admitted its striving to tip the balance of forces in the Far East in favour of the West. The most up-to-date "Ohio" and "Michigan" nuclear submarines armed with "Trident" missiles have already been sent into the Pacific Ocean. The intent to equip ships of the 7th Fleet with "Tomahawk" cruise missiles has been announced. Preparations to turn the air base in Misawa (Japan) into a permanent base of American nuclear-capable "F-16" planes are under way with the full approval of the Japanese Government. Last but not least, the holding of large-scale United States military exercises in the Far East with the participation of aircraft and ships with nuclear weapons on board has become more frequent. An example of this is presented by the "Team Spirit-84" exercises that are scheduled for February and will involve more than 200,000 servicemen of the United States and the South Korean regime.

What is the aim of these adventuristic activities that gamble with peace in the Far East and the lives of millions of people? After Europe in Asia, too, the United States wants to bring its nuclear forces closer to the territory of the states of the region that pursue an independent policy. Is this not proved by the fact that more than 700 American nuclear munitions are deployed already now on the territory of South Korea near the borders with China and the DPRK? Are not the very same aims of nuclear blackmail against countries in Southeast and South Asia served by the Pentagon's bases in the Philippines and Australia? Is it not clear that the Pentagon's contentions that all these forces supposedly serve the "containment of the USSR" are sheer bluffing? In reality things are quite different: The United States wants to strengthen its positions in that region and arrogate for itself the right to establish by force of arms the regimes it wants and to suppress by fire and sword the national-liberation movement of peoples.

As to the Soviet Union, it will not be intimidated by the United States' policy of escalating the nuclear threat. The Soviet Union has everything that is needed to protect its security. The peoples of those countries which Washington is trying to turn into its nuclear hostages are likely to suffer in the first turn from the mad nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union holds as before that what suits the interests of peace in the Far East is not the dangerous arms race, not the raising of the level of nuclear confrontation but the easing of tension in the Far East and in Asia. It is known that the Soviet Government has repeatedly come up with initiatives directed at the attainment of these aims. Thus, the Soviet proposals directed at restricting the operations of navies, at spreading confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans, especially to the areas where the liveliest sea lanes pass, have a direct bearing on the Asian-Pacific area. The same aims are served by the known proposals made by the countries of Indochina as well as Mongolia. The Soviet people hold that in the Far East, too, the future belongs to detente, to the policy of disarmament and reasonable compromise and not to nuclear confrontation which can result in the destruction of human civilization.

CEMA 1984 SOCIOECONOMIC TARGETS OUTLINED

PM031209 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[B. Averchenko article under the rubric "Into 1984": "New Heights Lie Ahead"]

[Text] The world socialist system is advancing steadily. The fraternal countries have entered the fourth year of the current 5-year plan with new achievements. Consistently implementing the course defined by party congresses aimed at the all-around intensification of production and the enhancement of its efficiency and of output quality, last year -- 1983 -- the community states achieved a further strengthening of economic might and a growth in the national income and the working people's well-being.

On the eve of the new year, in accordance with tradition, plenums of the central committees of the ruling Marxist-Leninist parties and sessions of the highest organs of the people's power were held in most of the fraternal countries. They were devoted to summing up the results of what was done last year and defining new heights that must be scaled this year, which is in many respects the decisive year of the 5-year plan. It is noteworthy that the working people of the socialist states regard their plans for socioeconomic development and their budgets for 1984 as being indissolubly linked with the deepening of economic integration and the wide division of labor within the CEMA framework. They are unanimous in the view that collaboration between the community countries must rise to a qualitatively new level and constantly deepen and improve.

On the basis of concrete conditions and of the results achieved and the potential available, the highest organs of the CEMA member states have set plan targets for this year. A characteristic feature of these plans is that they enshrine the positive trends manifested last year in the development of the fraternal countries' economy, which, despite the more complex conditions and discriminatory measures on the part of the West, continued to develop along an ascending line and at a higher rate than at the start of the 5-year period. At the same time plans for the current year are oriented to a great extent toward the development of international cooperation and specialization and toward collaboration with a view to resolving by joint efforts the problems of the intensification of the national economy and the creation of additional sources of commodity resources.

The GDR working people intend to take a new step forward in national economic development this year. It is planned to increase the national income by 4.4 percent compared with last year's results, the volume of industrial production by 4.2 percent, and foreign trade turnover by 5 percent. Exports of GDR articles to the Soviet Union will increase by 7.7 percent. The population's monetary income and commodity stocks will increase perceptibly.

Impressive tasks have been set by industrial and agricultural workers in socialist Cuba, who are currently marking the 25th anniversary of the victory of the revolution. The integrated plan for socioeconomic development for 1984 approved by the session of the National Assembly of the People's Government provides for an increase in gross product of 4-4.5 percent.

The CSSR's material and technical potential is to increase. As RUDE PRAVO notes, the state plan adopted for this year is still based on accelerating the dynamic of economic development. A 3 percent increase in gross national income is planned. In order to achieve this result it is planned to concentrate efforts above all on increasing production efficiency, ensuring maximum savings, energy, raw materials, and semifinished materials, and introducing the achievements of science and technology widely.

Hungary's working people plan to mark the new year with a further increase in production. National income in the republic will increase and more industrial and agricultural output will be produced. In the decisions adopted in this connection by the leadership organs, particular attention is paid to deepening Hungary's economic ties with the fraternal socialist states. Hungarian enterprises will expand their exports to the CEMA countries of communications facilities and computers, vacuum technology and means of transport, and equipment for agriculture and the food industry. An important role is allotted to the countryside. Its working people are called upon to harvest 15 million metric tons of grain this year. This will amount to 1.4 metric tons per head of population, which is a very high indicator in world terms.

Additional reserves for increasing the pace of socialist building have been sought in Vietnam. People there plan to considerably increase the production of electricity, cement, and other industrial output, including consumer goods. The peasantry is set the task of producing 18 million metric tons of foodstuffs in rice equivalent.

New targets in socioeconomic development have also been set in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, and Mongolia.

The attainment of high results in the economy pursues in all the fraternal countries the socialist society's main aim -- that of improving the people's living standard. The plans provide for an increase in the population's real income, the expansion of housing, cultural, and consumer construction, and the further development of education, health care, and culture.

Major new tasks and intensive work for the sake of strengthening the socialist community's economic and defense might for the sake of world peace lies ahead for the working people in the fraternal countries.

APN OBSERVER VIEWS U.S. BAN ON TECHNOLOGY SALES

LD030008 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Report on interview with APN economics observer Vladimir Gurevich; date and place not given; questions read by unidentified female announcer, answers by unidentified male announcer]

[Text] A NATO session in Brussels last month discussed the limitation of sales of Western technology to the Soviet Union and the United States secretary of defense, Caspar Weinberger, has spoken of leakages of such technology. The Western press is also full of speculations on the issue. When we asked the economics observer of the NOVOSTI press agency, Vladimir Gurevich, to comment he said the following:

[Answer] I believe this is in line with the policy Washington has been pursuing. What American leaders say about leakages of technology, and what some West Europeans repeat after them, is only another version of the myth of a Soviet threat and this myth plays a key role in the United States public diplomacy. The United States undersecretary of defense, Fred Ikle, has said that the Soviet threat campaign has worked and it's necessary to go on cultivating such fears.

[Question] So the sales of technology to the East have been highlighted to bolster the Soviet threat campaign?

[Answer] That's one of the main reasons at any rate. An atmosphere of hostility towards the Soviet Union makes it much easier for Washington to justify its power politics. There's a direct link between the United States arms buildup and the sensational allegations about Soviet spies hunting for Western technology.

[Female announcer] Vladimir Gurevich gave some details.

[Male announcer] As soon as the United States decided to deploy new nuclear missiles in Europe and launched a large-scale program for the development of other weapons, a campaign started about leakages of Western technology to the Soviet Union. Now why has this campaign reached a peak just lately? The United States has long called for the limitation of sales of Western technology to the East, but until now it was less insistent and the pretexts used were different. When President Carter imposed limitations on the sales of computers to the Soviet Union, he linked the action with the so-called problem of human rights and developments in Afghanistan. President Reagan, too, imposed sanctions using similar pretexts -- the situation in Poland for example. But it is only now that we hear frequent and vociferous statements that it's important to limit technology sales to the East so as to protect the national security of the Western nations. So what's happened? Has NATO decided to be more vigilant? No. The real reason is the new stage of the arms buildup President Reagan has started. Last year, the United States intelligence services issued a special report alleging that the Soviet Union had used many of the technologies bought from the West to modernize its weapons and now the West was having to invest heavily to bridge the gap. That's the line of argument. The United States is simply trying to justify its arms buildup.

[Question] Is this the only reason for the technology leakage campaign? Vladimir Gurevich comments.

[Answer] There's yet another. Many people in the West still see the Soviet Union as a technologically backward country, but then how can such a country threaten the West?

The only explanation the West has been able to find is that the Soviet Union either buys or steals Western technologies to use them for military purposes. And finally, Washington has an economic reason. It has been trying to curtail East-West trade but its sanctions against the Soviet Union have failed and its Western allies either disapprove of the sanctions or reject them altogether. So Washington has decided that the best way to make its allies limit trade with the East is to persuade them that the technologies they sell to the Soviet Union can be used for military purposes.

[Question] Why is it some Western governments accept this argument, at least in part?

[Answer] The United States has given a military dimension to the question of trade with the East, and on military matters the United States allies nearly always yield. But they are also aware that the United States demands they ban the export of items that have nothing to do with weapons. They know, too, that it will backfire on them, not on Washington, if they curtail trade with the East because the United States sells the Soviet Union primarily grain, while its allies sell equipment and knowhow. On the whole, Western Europe and Japan account for 90 percent of Western trade with the Soviet Union.

[Question] What are the items the United States is trying to ban?

[Answer] Oil and gas equipment, computers, robots, machine tools. The Americans themselves admit these robots are designed for civil industries but they claim such equipment makes it possible for the Soviet Union to invest more in the munitions industries. East-West trade in general will be impossible if this reasoning is followed. When Austria's ex-Chancellor Bruno Kreisky returned from Washington, he remarked that soon there would be nothing to sell to the Russians but lemonade, and a newspaper in West Berlin has commented that every trouser button has strategic significance because by importing buttons a country releases industrial facilities to manufacture weapons. The newspaper said this jokingly, of course, but in the cold war years such an approach to international trade was official United States policy.

In the late 40's, American laws forbade selling the Soviet Union even such trifles as wigs, buttons, and paper clips. You can imagine what kind of trade there was. The United States and its allies, too, as much as imposed a blockade on the Soviet Union. But the West has never got what it sought. For one, the United States thought it could perpetuate its nuclear monopoly, but in no more than 4 years the Soviet Union broke this monopoly, though the head of the American nuclear program General (Drews) told the Congress it would take us at least a decade. And it was during that blockade that the Soviet Union launched the world's first jet plane and then the world's first satellite. It was then, too, that the West realized the Soviet Union had ballistic missiles, and by the 70's the Soviet Union had caught up with the United States and established strategic parity. Nor did it use Western technology to do so.

[Question] But still there is such a thing as national security and every country seeks to safeguard it.

[Answer] True, and every country has the right to protect its national security and the Americans, like everyone else, know how to keep things secret if these things are really important. But the concept the United States is trying to impose on its allies is miles away from security considerations. Take the example of oil and gas equipment. Recently Washington discussed whether to put the export of such items under the control of the Pentagon so that the Soviet Union could not get hold of strategic equipment. That was the pretext, but what is the real reason?

William Safire of THE NEW YORK TIMES has explained: He says the strategic objective of the United States is to hamper the Soviet Union in increasing output of oil and gas. The United States is not going to be able to do it, of course, but what does all this have to do with military secrets?

[Question] The Western media allege the Soviet Union has used civil equipment to develop new weapons, and they even give examples.

[Answer] Yes, the BBC for one, has said the Soviet Union bought from the United States machine tools designed for making ball bearings and used them to improve its missile guidance systems. But the BBC forgot to mention what was said in the U.S. Congress about this: that there was no evidence of this, simply the American intelligence services (?fed) instinctive suspicion over the issue. But, as usual, there was a stir in the press.

[Question] Yet there is such a thing as strategic goods.

[Answer] Quite right, but everything depends on what you mean by that and what your objective is. The West buys goods from us that can be considered strategic for example, chromium, manganese, titanium, palladium, and natural and carbon diamonds. Western countries, including the United States, have bought from the Soviet Union the newest methods of aluminum production and sophisticated welding technology. The Americans themselves incidentally call such goods and technology strategic and have banned the export of such items and knowhow to the Soviet Union. There was also a ban on the export of carbon diamonds and aluminum to the Soviet Union. Now the Soviet Union not only produces such items itself but sells both carbon diamonds and aluminum technology to the West.

Or take this example: The Soviet Union has sold the United States licenses for the production of afterburners to be used in turbojet engines and licenses for making machine tools designed to roll thin-walled tubes. Strictly speaking, all these technologies can be used in munitions production.

[Question] So the United States buys from the Soviet Union equipment and knowhow it would never have sold this country?

[Answer] Exactly, and some Americans admit this. We too know how to defend our interest and we do everything to protect our security, but we believe that in doing so we shouldn't erect artificial barriers between East and West. I can give you one more example. When the Soviet scientist Igor Kurchatov visited the Harwell nuclear center in Britain, he spoke openly about the Soviet research in thermonuclear fusion, though all other countries had kept such work secret and at the time the Soviet Union was ahead in this key field, just as it is today. But secrets differ. On one hand, there are things that are really important for a country's security, and on the other is provocative talk. The technology leakage campaign is provocative talk. Many Western experts and businessmen believe that what threatens the national security of the Western countries is not the expansion of trade with the East but a reduction of trade, because that creates additional problems for Western economies and makes their output less competitive.

TASS COMMENTARY ON STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE CITED

LD021800 Prague CTK in English 1630 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow -- Neither the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures nor bilateral contacts can replace the Geneva talks which collapsed through the fault of the United States which did not seek a mutually acceptable agreement on nuclear weapons in Europe, the Soviet news agency TASS said today.

In a commentary on the forthcoming Stockholm conference, TASS said that the United States misused the Geneva talks as a camouflage for the actions of the United States and other NATO countries, aimed at undermining European and world security.

A way of breaking the deadlock was shown in a resolution adopted by the Supreme Soviet at its year-end session: If the United States and other NATO countries display readiness to revert to the state which existed before the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles, also the Soviet Union will be ready to do so. However, there are no signs on the part of NATO of such readiness, TASS commented.

American official sources make excessively optimistic statements at the beginning of the new year, evidently with a view to creating the impression that despite the highly dangerous step -- deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles -- nothing has really happened.

The U.S. Department of State announced that Foreign Ministers Andrey Gromyko and George Shultz would meet at the conference in Stockholm and a spokesman said at a press conference that the United States hoped that the Soviet Union would return to the negotiating table.

TASS pointed out that only confidence-building measures are on the agenda of the first stage of the Stockholm conference, and that Washington is speaking of something that does not exist. Its statements about meetings of official representatives in Stockholm are only intended to calm the West European and American public.

INTERRELIGIOUS MEETING AGAINST NUCLEAR WAR HELD

LD031803 Moscow TASS in English 1718 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS -- A big group of church figures of various denominations who took part in the world conference "Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life From Nuclear Catastrophe", held in Moscow in 1982, gathered here today for a meeting of the working presidium and the secretariat of the conference. Metropolitan philaret of Minsk and Belorussia, chairman of the working presidium, stressed in his report that the meeting is taking place in "accordance with a mandate of the 1982 inter-religious conference to facilitate the implementation of its ideas and decisions."

The report notes that "the world situation has not improved, but on the contrary, worsened since the holding of the conference. This gives rise to extreme alarm. We are witnessing how the fundamental principles of inter-state relations are being violated."

The speaker enumerated the regions where the situation is particularly alarming, including the Middle East with a virtual war being waged there against Palestinians and Lebanese, the Persian Gulf region, southern Africa, Nicaragua against which an undeclared war is being continued, and defenceless Grenada. "What happened to Grenada," Metropolitan philaret said, "may happen tomorrow to Nicaragua and any other independent country in Central America."

"Local conflicts," the speaker stressed, "are regrettable not only because they threaten to grow into global wars. These are genuine tragedies bringing suffering and death to people, suffering to whole peoples and threat to their existence."

The report noted that the deployment of American nuclear missiles in West Germany, Britain and Italy heightened in the extreme the atmosphere in Europe. It was noted that "in face of historic responsibility for the fate of the Soviet state and the socialist community, the USSR was compelled to adopt response measures."

"A terrible threat to all living beings on earth makes our role, the role of religious workers and pastors, our teaching and prophetic service exceptionally important," Metropolitan Philaret said. The speaker cited numerous examples of how religious circles participate in the anti-war movement guided by religious and ethical notions of duty to mankind.

"We are not losing the hope that the efforts will bear fruit. We can and should fight against sin, actively participate in peace-making activity," the speaker said.

Debate opened at the presidium's session with religious workers from India, Cuba, Belgium, Hungary, Zimbabwe, Syria and other countries taking part.

Between sittings, members of the working presidium and the secretariat were received by Patriarch Pimen of Moscow and all Russia who called upon them, in line with the decisions of the international conference, "to redouble their efforts to prevent nuclear catastrophe."

The meeting of the religious workers will continue its work on January 4.

ARBATOV BOOK ON WORLD SCENE, PROSPECTS REVIEWED

PM031326 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 4

[E. Rozental book review under the rubric "Books": "The Only Choice"]

[Text] The Russian edition of the book "Entering the Eighties..." by Georgiy Arbatov and Wilem Altmans (Footnote) (G. Arbatov, W. Altmans, "Entering the Eighties..." [Vstupaya 80-ye...], NOVOSTI Press Agency Publishing House, Moscow, 1983) has been published.

I had an opportunity to familiarize myself with the book in manuscript form before it was submitted for typesetting and, to be honest, I very much hoped that, while it was being typeset and printed, life would disprove Academician Arbatov's forecast. Replying to Dutch journalist Altmans' question whether he considered out of the question any unexpected actions or turns of events which could lead to a serious improvement in Soviet-U.S. relations and in the world situation as a whole, Arbatov said that, in his opinion, the situation would deteriorate before it begins improving.

This forecast, alas, has come true. On a wave of anti-Soviet hysteria the United States has undertaken the siting of its missiles in West Europe. Things have really taken a turn for the worse.

And yet, we would hope that the second part of his forecast will also come true and that the situation in the world will start improving. It is true that this will not happen automatically; it requires more and more millions of people to cast off their passivity, manifest determination, and take up the cause of peace. In this connection Georgiy Arbatov quotes his favorite aphorism by Bruno Yasenskiy: "Do not fear enemies -- at worse they can kill you. Do not fear friends -- at worse they can betray you."

"But do fear the indifferent -- they neither kill nor betray, but it is only their silent acquiescence that enables treason and killing to exist on earth...."

I have in my hands a book written by two far from indifferent persons. They are quite different, the authors of this book, and stand on different sides of the ideological barricade. They have different views on the path of mankind's development. They are, however, in agreement that unless peace is saved now, today, mankind in general will have no tomorrow at all.

"Entering the Eighties..." is an unusual book. Its frontispiece has the subtitle: "Book-Interview on Topical Questions of Modern International Relations." The questions are asked by Willem Altmans and answered by Georgiy Arbatov. Altmans, a meticulous journalist well-versed in this genre, had prepared a questionnaire of 150 items. He was helped in his selection of questions by many famous politicians, including U.S. Sovietologists, with far from good feelings for our country.

The questions posed in the book cover a broad spectrum of problems: economics, trade, ideology, politics, Afghanistan, human rights, and so on. Georgiy Arbatov does not avoid answering a single one of these questions, although he considers some of them tactless, and says so openly to his opponent. But he does answer, disproving the conjectures about "closed" Soviet society.

The careful reader, having familiarized himself with the book's contents, will yet again conclude that the only alternative to a nuclear apocalypse in our complex world can be nothing but the policy of peaceful coexistence.

Is the book convincing? With the Soviet reader in mind, it may be that this question is not quite accurate. It is probably unnecessary to convince the Soviet people of the reasonableness, soundness, and enormous significance of the Soviet peace policy. For them the book is of interest as a systematic exposition of the history of USSR-U.S. relations and of the dynamics and development of international problems in the last few years.

As regards Western readers, the book has already been published in the FRG, the Netherlands, Britain, the United States, and Japan (and publishers in several other countries have shown interest in it), but matters are more complicated there. Bourgeois propaganda has managed to influence mass awareness well: It has stuffed the minds of hundreds of thousands of people with anti-Sovietism. Georgiy Arbatov quotes words spoken 40 years ago -- at the time when the USSR and the United States were still allies -- in the order of the USSR and the United States were still allies -- in the order of the day by a senior officer of the U.S. Army in Germany: "Millions of Russian soldiers and civilians have perished to save our skins. Remember this. If propaganda makes you hate the Russians, pause and think. They died also for you." Alas, many people in the West have since forgotten this, while the majority simply do not know it; they hear quite different things about the Soviet people, and the machinery of the "big lie" is turning at full speed. It is not easy for someone in the West to rid himself of anticommunist and anti-Soviet stereotypes. It is, nevertheless, still likely that although such books may not convince everyone, many people will pause and think. And this is very important: to pause and think in good time.

U.S. VIEWS OF 1984, EXPECTATIONS FOR 1984 VIEWED

LD0322006 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 31 Dec 83

[From the Vremya newscast; correspondent Aleksandr Druzhinin video report]

[Text] For the capitalist countries, the year just ending was marked by the growth of militaristic preparations and the exacerbation of socioeconomic problems. In the United States, the finishing touches are being put to preparations for celebrating the New Year. The last few days before the New Year are not just a festive time, however. They are also a time for taking stock, a time when people are particularly accustomed to pondering the future.

What was 1983 like for the United States? In reflecting on this, many U.S. observers unanimously conclude that it will linger in the memory above all as the year of an unprecedented buildup of the arms race. Indeed, in 1983, under pressure from the Reagan administration, Congress adopted a military budget the equal of which the United States have never known: \$187.5 billion were earmarked for military preparations. In deploying Pershings and cruise missiles on the European Continent, Washington politicians took another dangerous step. Their attempts to create an additional threat to the security of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries undoubtedly increased the possibility of a nuclear conflict.

The year 1983 will also be remembered as a year in which the United States was drawn ever deeper into aggressive military adventures in various parts of the world: the piratical attack on Grenada, the undeclared war the United States continued to wage with mercenaries against Nicaragua and the increase in U.S. military interference in Lebanon's affairs. More than 500,000 U.S. soldiers are celebrating 1984 at military bases which, as this map shows, are scattered over all continents from Japan to El Salvador. [shots of U.S. military personnel, Pershing missiles]

What do Americans expect from the year just beginning? Sensible people in the United States look to the future without any optimism. They realize that if the Reagan administration does not turn away from the policy of escalating the arms race and dangerous military preparations, and if it continues to pursue a policy of further increasing tension throughout the world, the coming year promises to be no less alarming than 1983. The customary New Year holiday atmosphere cannot stifle the profound alarm and concern that they feel over the Washington administration's policies.

'LIES,' 'CORRUPTION' PART OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

LD031521 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Commentary entitled "Lies as a Tool of Foreign Policy in Bourgeois States" by Vitaliy Sobolev]

[Text] The FRG magazine STERN has published a new year interview with U.S. Vice President Bush. In it, he was reminded of Washington's long-standing claims that, following the beginning of deployment of the new U.S. missiles in Western Europe, Moscow would, as it were, agree to compromise, or, as NATO officials might put it, would start conducting talks in earnest. At the moment, the magazine's correspondent notes, no talks whatsoever are being held in Geneva. To this, Bush answered without blinking: That Moscow would break off the talks on medium-range nuclear missile weapons could be foreseen. In other words, his government consciously lied to its allies. However, having admitted what had happened -- a fact that cannot be concealed -- the U.S. vice president immediately repeated the new official lie from Washington.

Moscow, he said, will return to the negotiating table in a month or two. Bush, as well as the journalist from STERN, know perfectly well that the resumption of the talks is possible only if that situation existing prior to the deployment of the new U.S. missiles is restored. The interview makes no mention of anything like that.

Lies, I would say, are a means of subsistence for the bourgeois politician. Churchill, the late British prime minister and one of President Reagan's idols, said: The truth is so precious that it must be escorted by a pack of lies. Churchill loved grandiloquent statements. Lesser politicians express the same idea in simpler terms. Take, for instance, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Sylvester. The government, he said, has the right to use lies. If you think that an official in the United States is going to tell you the truth, you are simply being naive.

Of course, such frank self-exposure is not heard frequently. It is hard to say what motivates this: remnants of conscience or, on the contrary, extreme cynicism. One can claim confidently only one thing -- that the immorality of the bourgeois social order and the inhumanity of its principles inevitably give rise to the loathsome phenomena which can be observed in the political headquarters of capitalism: corruption, that is, mercenariness and mendacity. These affect both major affairs and petty matters.

There is neither the desire nor the need to present an inventory here of the official lies spread by bourgeois governments. I shall remind you of just one more case. When the U.S. spy pilot Powers was downed near Sverdlovsk, the U.S. Government announced that he diverted from his flight path accidentally. The authorities in Washington were hoping that the pilot would commit suicide, as required in the brief, so it would not be possible to establish the truth. However, Powers chose to remain alive and Washington was caught in the act. Last year, after the downing of the South Korean spy aircraft, the United States started lying in just the same way, despite the fact that Western aviation experts established that this aircraft could not have entered Soviet airspace on its own accord, and that the U.S. intelligence service has long been using passenger aircraft for its purposes. On this occasion, too, Washington was not merely lying. It used lies in order to poison the international atmosphere to the maximum.

Observing the foreign policy of the bourgeois world, it is easy to establish that lying has become more frequent there. This is understandable. First of all, the policy itself is becoming more dangerous, its consequences more horrific and so in greater need of camouflage. Second, the level of public activity among the inhabitants of capitalist countries is rising. In order to govern them, the leaders of these countries are increasingly willing to resort to deceit. However, not only are lies increasing, but also more are being unmasked. Sociological questionnaires indicate the low level of trust that ordinary people in the West have in their governments. So even officials from these governments, like Sylvester, tell the public, sighing like merchants: If you do not cheat, you will not sell. Of course, in this way they can still succeed in peddling the rotten goods of bourgeois politics to the electorate. The official lies originating from Western capitals will still bring no little harm. However, as the saying goes, lies will not get you very far [u lzhi korotkiye nogi]. No matter how hard Washington officials and their allies tighten their skates, it becomes clearer every day that they cannot get much further.

REAGAN, RUMSFELD DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST POLICY

LD032032 Moscow TASS in English 2012 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Washington January 3 TASS -- President Reagan today met his special Middle East envoy Rumsfeld.

They say in the White House that that meeting marked the beginning of a "revision" of the administration's Middle East policy. The demand for a drastic revision of the adventurist course followed by the United States in that region is being put forth ever more vigorously by U.S. politicians and public figures. Even the Pentagon had to admit in a recent report that by laying emphasis on military efforts rather than on diplomacy, the administration was only aggravating tension in the Middle East, first and foremost in Lebanon.

To all appearances, the administration is not going to give up its present course. Although it was officially stated that at their meeting today Reagan and Rumsfeld were to exchange fresh ideas on diplomatic initiatives in the region, Washington is obviously unprepared to go beyond "facelifting measures" which will not at all affect the foundations of its aggressive policy.

MONDALE, HUDDLESTON DEMAND LEBANON WITHDRAWAL

LD011118 Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 1 Jan 84

[Text] Washington January 1 TASS -- More and more politicians in the USA become aware of the disastrousness of the Reagan administration's policy of expanding American military interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon. Senator Walter Huddleston (Democrat from Kentucky state) demanded an immediate withdrawal of American troops which are part of the so-called "multinational force." He stressed that President Reagan did not give the American people any weighty reasons for sending U.S. Marines to Lebanon.

Walter Mondale, former vice-president of the USA, urged the White House to withdraw all American forces from Lebanon within 45 days.

JACKSON SYRIAN STATEMENT HITS U.S. POLICY

LD031649 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus January 3 TASS -- The President of Syria Hafiz Al-Asad has received here visiting black American Democratic presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson. In the course of their conversation Hafiz al-Asad criticized the U.S. policy of rude military blackmail and pressure against independent Middle East nations. He also condemned the United States' attempts at forcing its will on the Syrian people and stressed the Syrians' determination to defend their lawful national interests.

Jackson, SANA news agency reported, voiced his objection to the policy of the present U.S. Administration and U.S. actions in Lebanon and Grenada as well as with regard to Nicaragua and other independent countries. He emphasized that this U.S. policy was damaging the true interests of the American people.

After the meeting it was officially announced here about the decision of the Government of Syria to release the pilot of the American plane which was shot down early in December by anti-aircraft defence batteries of the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. In the statement of the representative of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic it is noted that the release of the pilot is Syria's contribution to the creation of an atmosphere which would be conducive to withdrawal of the American troops from Lebanon. The Syrian Arab Republic hopes that the U.S. Government will take steps to put an end to its interference in Lebanon. Meanwhile, it is stressed in the statement, "Syria reaffirms once again that its Armed Forces will continue giving firm rebuff to all aggressive and provocative actions".

JACKSON DAMASCUS SUCCESS SHOULD HELP CAMPAIGN

LD032243 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2005 GMT 3 Jan 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by political observer Vladimir Dunayev]

[Text] A word or two about Jesse Jackson, who is trying to get himself nominated for the post of President of the United States by the Democratic Party. The last poll of last year gave him 10 percent popularity and support. But I think that the first poll of the New Year will give him a much larger number of supporters. There are at least two reasons for that. It is well known that half of adult Americans do not vote and do not even register on the lists. Jesse Jackson is preparing to make certain changes in this area. He has established that three out of four nonvoters are paupers, people who live in ethnic ghettos and slums.

But now Jesse Jackson, a comrade-in-arms of Martin Luther King in the struggle for civil rights, has decided to pursue a campaign for the registration not only of black Americans but also of Puerto Ricans and people of Mexican extraction -- in a word all the ethnic minorities.

Here you see Jesse Jackson on the balcony in Atlanta alongside Martin Luther King literally a few hours before the attack on and murder of King. [still shot of Jesse Jackson with Martin Luther King] So if he succeeds -- and Jackson has the support of many activists -- this year's election campaign may become a little unusual. It is not by chance that other claimants to the Democratic Party nomination -- or even all of them -- are currying favor with Jackson because the 10-15 percent of the electorate that supports him might mean the difference between victory and defeat at the presidential elections.

But the second reason why Jackson's popularity should grow considerably lies in his very recent visit to Damascus. He openly expressed there his disagreement with Washington's actions in Lebanon and Grenada and in relation to Nicaragua, and Jackson is returning with the pilot Robert Goodman whose plane was shot down in early December. The pilot's release was Syria's contribution to creating an atmosphere that would promote the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Lebanon. But the contribution of Jesse Jackson himself will also be highly thought of in the United States. There is no doubt of that.

MONDALE CRITICIZES REAGAN ARMS POLICY

LD032300 Moscow TASS in English 2231 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Washington January 4 TASS -- Former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, contending the Democratic presidential nomination, strongly criticised the militarist foreign policy of the Reagan administration.

Speaking at the National Press Club on Tuesday, he said that the Reagan administration had pushed the arms race to unprecedented proportions. He said that the Pentagon's budget for the next fiscal year, 1985, was planned at 305 billion dollars. The President's priority task today, according to him, should be to lessen the threat of the use of nuclear weapons, of which about 50,000 units have been stockpiled in the world. However, President Reagan has come out against the efforts of all his predecessors in that field. No progress has been made on arms control. The record of the present administration is not so sorry and disgusting in any other field, Mondale stressed. [sentence as received]

PRC 'DISTORTS' EAST-WEST DISARMAMENT ISSUES

PM302215 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 First Edition p 5

[A. Golts "Notes Apropos": "Who This Serves"]

[Text] Utterances by prominent politicians and public figures and abundant material in the world's press cogently bear out that there is no region on the planet today that has not felt tremendous alarm in connection with the sharp aggravation of the international situation -- an aggravation caused by the start of the siting of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in West Europe. These adventurist actions by the United States and NATO are causing serious harm to the security not only of the European peoples but also of the whole world's peoples. The intensification of international tension has not passed unremarked by the Chinese press organs either. However, the stance adopted by them is, to say the least, perplexing.

Despite well-known facts, the whole gamut of problems caused by the siting of U.S. missiles in Europe is depicted by Chinese observers as a manifestation of the "bitter struggle between the two superpowers for nuclear superiority." Yet it is perfectly obvious that such an approach distorts the meaning of what is taking place and makes it impossible to perceive that those to blame for the tension are the bellicose imperialist forces and the leading circles of the United States who are trying to smash the military equilibrium in Europe and ensure superiority for themselves on a global scale in order to implement the delirious dreams of U.S. dominance in the world.

Moreover, Chinese propaganda is trying to present matters in such a way that the Soviet SS-20 missiles are to blame for the tension while the United States, it says, has merely taken "retaliatory measures." "The Soviet Union is seeking to preserve its superiority," the journal SHIJIE ZHISHI declares, thereby reiterating the chief argument of imperialist propaganda.

And the question of ending the Geneva talks is examined in just a tendentious a manner. In items on this topic considerable space is allocated to hypocritical statements by Washington about "readiness to engage in talks" and to appeals emanating from NATO circles for the "resumption of negotiations." At the same time, it is pointed out that the "USSR has adopted a tough stance" and is allegedly displaying "obstinacy." But it is well known, after all, how constructive the proposals submitted by the Soviet Union were. It is also known that the USSR, as it had warned, was forced to abandon the talks only when it became perfectly obvious that the United States was not seeking an honest accord but was using them as a cover for siting its missiles.

An unobjective stance is also taken by the PRC mass media in covering the antiwar movement that has gripped West Europe. Distorting the true aim of this movement -- to rid their land of U.S. Pershing-II and cruise missiles -- the Chinese newspapers assert that the populations of West European countries are allegedly protesting against the "nuclear rivalry of the two superpowers."

Analyzing the problem of medium-range weapons, the Chinese press also examines it as it applies to Asia. And here again, under the cover of disquisitions about "a clash of the superpowers," the same bias is displayed which serves the interests of the apologists of the militarist preparations of the United States in this region.

Chinese propaganda focuses attention on the question of Soviet missiles in the Asian part of the USSR's territory and inflates any fabrications about the Soviet Union's "military activeness" in the Far East and myths about "the Soviet military threat" to countries located here, pretending that it does not know the origin of the real threat to the peace and stability of the region.

Chinese observers seem to forget that the entire Asian Continent is literally encircled by U.S. military bases. U.S. aircraft carriers constantly ply back and forth on the Pacific Ocean with nuclear missiles and nuclear-armed aircraft on board, as do Trident missile-carrying submarines. Nuclear missiles are stationed on the territory of Japan and South Korea, which are becoming linked increasingly tightly to U.S. strategy.

The siting of medium-range missiles in the region is on the Pentagon's agenda: on ships of the 7th Fleet and on the territory of certain Asian states. Literally the other day Admiral W. Crowe, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, bluntly stated Washington's intention to site cruise missiles and chemical weapons in Southeast Asia. The implementation of such schemes carries with it a threat to the security not only of the USSR but also of the other socialist states located in Asia -- including the PRC -- and of all Asian states and peoples.

But Chinese propaganda stubbornly looks for the source of danger in the actions of the Soviet Union. Really, its vision is strangely "selective"! Let us add that this selectivity benefits those who have declared a "crusade" against socialism and who use it as camouflage for their own global adventurism and their own actions which threaten peace and the security of the peoples.

XINHUA SCORED FOR 'CRUDE FORGERY' ON AFGHANISTAN

PM031637 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 4

[V. Svetov rejoinder: "Crude Forgery"]

[Text] In the last week of 1983 the Chinese mass media did not fail to put out yet another anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan forgery. I mean a XINHUA NEWS AGENCY item of 24 December that grossly distorts the USSR's fraternal assistance to the people of friendly Afghanistan and casts aspersions on the DRA Government for following the course of the April Revolution.

What, then, displeases the authors of the Chinese agency's aforementioned item? Above all -- and this is strikingly obvious -- the positive changes that have occurred recently in the democratic republic. Contrary to various predictions, the people's power is implementing effective measures in the social and economic spheres -- which is having a favorable effect not only on the country's general situation but also on the sentiments of persons who -- deceived by hostile propaganda -- left their motherland, and on their attitude toward changes taking place there. The forgery's compilers by no means take as their basis official government reports or the testimonies of impartial eyewitnesses but, instead, the calumnies of those who have embarked on the path of counterrevolution and interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. And it is symptomatic that the firmer the rebuff to the intrigues of counterrevolution and the more people there are returning to Afghanistan -- their motherland -- and joining in building a new life, the fiercer the attacks on the DRA.

This is not the first time the XINHUA NEWS AGENCY has repeated at second hand what it has learned from those who organize and support the intervention against independent and sovereign Afghanistan.

It was not Beijing that invented, for example, the thesis of some "strategic interests" of the Soviet Union in that region and of its mythical desire to reach the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf zone by way of Afghanistan.

Who really threatens the peace and security of that region today? American imperialism. The latter has long been hankering after the oil-rich Persian Gulf region and the Indian Ocean, which is of strategic importance to it. The stand taken by the United States on the continuing Iran-Iraq conflict graphically demonstrates the close attention Washington and the Pentagon devote to the region. Stirring up the contradictions that exist there, the White House publicly declares that "any attempt to blockade the Persian Gulf will be viewed as a serious threat meriting a U.S. response." It is well known how the United States responds to such "threats." It is sufficient to recall Lebanon and Grenada. It is not surprising, therefore, that, having proclaimed the Indian Ocean a zone of its "vital interests," the United States set up the Central Command and also adopted a decision to send an American expeditionary corps to the Persian Gulf region. In the general context of the adventurist foreign policy of the head of the White House the local press regards this act as a direct preparation for war by the United States.

This is the factual aspect of the matter. No lies or juggling with facts can hide the obvious: The people of Democratic Afghanistan are successfully building a new life with the Soviet Union's fraternal assistance. The undeclared war against the DRA is doomed to failure. No one will succeed in reversing the destiny of Afghanistan, which is firmly following a revolutionary path.

To fail to notice all this and to level and support false accusations against the Soviet Union's policy in that region of the world, not disdaining to directly distort the actual state of affairs in and around the DRA, as the XINHUA NEWS AGENCY does, means in fact just one thing: justification and whitewashing of the aggressive, counterrevolutionary external interference in the DRA's internal affairs.

DRA TROOPS RECEIVE ANTIAIRCRAFT MISSILE TRAINING

PM031738 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 January 1984 First Edition publishes on page 3 under the rubric "Afghan Photodiary" and the heading "Being First!" the following report by Engineer Colonel General V. Sukhodolskiy:

The launch position appeared suddenly -- the truck which had been climbing the mountain road for a long time suddenly carried us onto a flat summit on which the missiles' silvery bodies glittered in the sun among the clay buildings, against a backdrop of mountain peaks receding far into the distance. We had arrived at a DRA Armed Forces air defense missile subunit.

"The launch crews' training was underway. Missiles vanished in clouds of smoke. The servicemen were rehearsing their standard procedures.

"The missile men recently carried out missile launches successfully. They destroyed the target with the first missile: They were incomparably delighted to have performed -- with their own hands! -- the important, necessary job.

"Someone has to be the first to start every job. In a country where 90 percent of the population are still illiterate, where the 16th century exists alongside the 20th, they were the first to carry out missile launches, and they did it to an excellent standard.

"I photographed one of the soldiers in the crew. Private (Kurshali), born in Konarha Province into a peasant family, one of many children. He has been in the Army 3 years and 36 days. It was here that he became literate, that he learned to read and write. He was recently accepted as a PDPA candidate member. He has responded wholeheartedly to the party's appeal to serve in the Army as long as the revolution is in danger, as long as there is a threat to its gains. Having served 3 years, he decided that the missile men were his family and that he would continue to serve here, defending the revolution.

"The missiles glitter so close to the sun -- the position is high in the mountains.

"'It's still good to be first, isn't it, Comrade (Akhmadzay)?' I asked the subunit commander, Colonel (Valish Akhmadzay), an officer no longer young, with a face baked by the mountain winds and sun. He was one of the first men in the Afghan Army to master missile equipment. The officer has belonged to the PDPA for 9 years now, that is, he joined it long before the revolution.

"Yes, the people's power has entrusted the first Afghan missiles to reliable fighters.

"The colonel looks at me, pauses, and then speaks softly and calmly in Russian:

"'Yes, it is good to be the first....' And his eyes sparkled and in his voice you could hear both joy and a clear understanding of the importance of what he had done."

The report is accompanied by two photographs, one 5 by 4 inches captioned "Private (Kurshali)" and the other 3 by 2 inches captioned "Afghan missile men in training." (Kurshali) is shown against the background of a battery of four missiles, while the missile men are photographed in silhouette running toward a second battery of four missiles.

U.S.-BACKED 'BANDITS' DO NOT 'INTIMIDATE' DRA

LD021927 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 2 Jan 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Anikin]

[Text] According to reports from Washington U.S. President Reagan has made new slanderous fabrications against Afghanistan. He has tried to justify the undeclared war against the republic in the eyes of world public opinion, a war being waged by imperialist powers using the hands of the counterrevolutionary rabble. A major part of the speech by the U.S. President was in fact devoted to eulogizing the bloody crimes of the gangs of bandits armed with U.S. weapons.

Let me invite my colleague, the commentator Yevgeniy Kachanov, to talk about this in greater detail:

As has been announced in Kabul by a representative of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Washington long ago elevated the waging of this undeclared war to the level of official policy. To be more precise, this has been so since the end of April 1978, that is immediately after the victory of the April revolution in Afghanistan.

The revolution which brought liberation for the Afghan people gave rise to animosity and fierce foreign and domestic opposition. Under the pressure hundreds of people, partly deceived and partly open enemies of the revolution, left the country. The notorious refugee problem came into being and the United States has been artificially stirring it up ever since while hindering its settlement. CIA agents hire members of terrorist gangs from among the refugees and these carry out raids on Afghan territory, kill party activists, blow up schools and hospitals, poison wells and set peaceful villages on fire. In the last year alone there has been 105 million dollars worth of official Washington aid to counterrevolutionaries. The real extent of funds allocated for the financing of the secret war, including those channelled via the CIA, is several times greater.

There are more than 300 U.S. instructors engaged in training bandit units in special camps on Pakistani territory to which large batches of the latest weapons, including chemical ones, are also supplied. There is also reliable information that Americans also take part directly in bandit operations. Moreover, special units of the Pakistan Armed Forces also penetrate into Afghan territory.

But this is what I would like to draw to your attention. Allocations for subversive activity against Afghanistan grow every month but the efficiency, if one can call it that, of this activity falls every day. The bandits are finding it increasingly difficult to intimidate the local population.

The progressive reforms being pursued by the People's Democratic Party and the Government of Afghanistan enjoy the support of the broadest strata of the country's population. The struggle against illiteracy, poverty and disease is meeting with success. The ideas of the April revolution are increasingly penetrating the masses winning their sympathy. That is why the people neither accept nor support the bandits who favor a return to the feudal past. That is why detachments for the defense of the revolution are being set up in the villages, detachments which rebuff the allies of the counterrevolutionaries. In the main the large bandit groups have already been smashed and the conclusive elimination of the basmachi in Afghanistan is a question of time.

The republic is proceeding confidently along the path of progress and no attempts by the Reagan administration to stop the course of history can hinder that.

KARMAL ADDRESSES PDPA CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

PM031426 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Speech by B. Karmal"]

[Text] Kabul, 30 Dec -- A PDPA Central Committee Politburo session has been held here under the chairmanship of B. Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. The BAKHTAR agency reports that the session discussed a number of questions of intra-party life and the improvement of the state organs' activity.

Addressing the session, B. Karmal said that the creation and expansion of the network of primary party organizations in rural regions will strengthen the party's link with the people. It is essential, he noted, for the PDPA to act among the people's masses, defending their fundamental interests. B. Karmal pointed to shortcomings in creating primary party organizations in villages and stressed the need to consider existing traditions and customs here. The PDPA Central Committee general secretary noted the importance of the constant consolidation of interaction between the party and state organs in the provinces and locally.

The resolutions adopted by the PDPA Central Committee Politburo contains instructions to the party organizations to expand work among the peasants and other working people with a view to their active involvement in the process of the progressive transformations which are being carried out in the country.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo session adopted a document on questions of expanding the party's ideological and political work aimed at consolidating the unity of the Afghan people.

GANDHI DECRIES FURTHER NUCLEAR ARMS BUILDUP

LD041058 Moscow TASS in English 1022 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi January 4 TASS -- Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, has pointed out the dangerous character of the attempts of Western strategists to justify the policy of a further nuclear arms buildup. Speaking at the opening of the 71st session of the Indian Scientific Congress held in Ranchi (Bihar State), she stressed the viciousness of the "limited" nuclear war theory and of the hopes to win such a war.

The nuclear weapons cannot be regarded today only as a means of waging a war, Indira Gandhi stressed. Any large-scale utilization of these weapons will result in the death of hundreds of millions of people and will inflict irreparable damage to the biological and economic processes on the earth. Indira Gandhi urged scientists to assume an active stand on the question of preserving and consolidating peace. No one in the world today can allow himself to neglect the danger of a nuclear war, she said.

The prime minister reaffirmed India's allegiance to the policy of peaceful utilisation of atomic energy. Our policy is aimed at ensuring self-sufficiency in peaceful nuclear power engineering, in the interests of promoting social and economic progress, she pointed out.

NHAN DAN SCORES PRC'S 'HOSTILE' INDOCHINA POLICY

PMO41011 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 83 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "NHAN DAN Article"]

[Text] Hanoi, 27 Dec -- China's hostile policy with respect to Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea remains unaltered, the newspaper NHAN DAN, organ of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, writes in an editorial article. The Chinese leaders are conducting a campaign of attacks on Vietnam, pretending they are prepared for detente and that all responsibility allegedly rests with Vietnam, while China has always sought "to restore the traditional friendship" between the two countries.

NHAN DAN cites as new evidence of China's hostile policy with respect to Kampuchea and Vietnam the recent gathering in Beijing of the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" in which the Pol Pot supporters expelled from the country play a leading part. The ferment in the gangs of hold-out butchers is obvious, the newspaper writes, and no aid to them from China will be able to reverse the development of events in Kampuchea.

The SRV, NHAN DAN points out, continues to adhere to a course aimed at talks for resolving all vexed questions and restoring normal relations with the PRC and it puts forward specific proposals aimed at easing tension in the border regions and signing a mutual nonaggression agreement. Vietnam has suggested on more than 10 occasions that talks be resumed and is continuing to express the readiness for them. Obviously, responsibility for the lack of progress in this sphere rests entirely with the Chinese side, NHAN DAN stresses in conclusion.

THAILAND'S 'PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS' AGAINST PRK HIT

LD032332 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Commentator Yevgeniy Kachanov comments on an SPK NEWS AGENCY report on violations of Kampuchean airspace and territorial waters by Thai planes and ships in December:

It needs to be said, comrades, that as the national day of the Kampuchean people draws near, the fifth anniversary of liberation from the Pol Pot regime and the proclamation of the Kampuchean People's Republic -- this date will be marked on 7 January -- the activity of counterrevolutionary gangs operating from bases on Thai territory has increased sharply. Under cover of fire from Thai artillery and mortars, they have repeatedly attempted to penetrate into Kampuchean border areas.

The plan of the Khmer reaction and its Western patrons is fairly transparent: to attempt to create the impression that at least some part of Kampuchean territory is under the control of the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, that is, of the former Prince Sihanouk, of the former Prime Minister Son Sann and of the ringleaders of the former Pol Pot regime. In other words, they want to pay by work for at least part of the generosity which they are receiving via the most varied channels from the United States and its allies.

A special role in those provocative actions is being allocated to Thailand. Washington is granting it the lion's share of all military aid in the region. And so in 1984 it will be increased by another 10 percent and will exceed \$106 million. These funds will be used to purchase armaments and military equipment for training Thai Armed Forces personnel.

It is not difficult to surmise that a condition of this aid is the support which the Thai authorities are giving to the Polpotists who have not yet been finished off.

But reaction's attempts to destabilize the situation in Kampuchea is not producing the results Washington hopes for. The same SPK NEWS AGENCY report says that the Kampuchean border guards resolutely cut short the bandits' attempts to penetrate into the republic's territory. Almost 400 violators were wiped out. A large quantity of American-made arms and military equipment was seized.

At present the Kampuchean people, who freed themselves from the rule of the criminal Pol Pot regime 5 years ago, can defend the inviolability of its borders. The Kampuchean People's Republic is successfully restoring the national economy and is confidently marching along the road of the construction of a new society, and no intrigues by hostile forces will be able to halt its forward movement.

KAMPUCHEA'S HUN SEN VIEWS INDOCHINA SITUATION

LD032235 Moscow TASS in English 2206 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Phnom Penh January 3 TASS -- Problems of consolidation of peace and stability in Southeast Asia can be resolved only through an equal dialogue between states of the region, journalists have been told here by Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Kampuchea Hun Sen.

Negotiations, based on the principles of equality and mutual respect, with no interference from outside, he stressed, meet the aspirations of all peoples of Southeast Asia. The way to peaceful solution of problems, to establishment of relations of goodneighbourliness and cooperation between the states of Indochina and the ASEAN member countries has been indicated in the proposals which were put forth at the conference of top leaders of Kampuchea, Vietnam and Laos in February last year in Vientiane and also at conferences of the foreign ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The persisting threat from external imperialist and reactionary forces stands in the way of withdrawal from the People's Republic of Kampuchea of the contingent of Vietnamese voluntary troops, who are now in the country at the request of the legitimate government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, said Hun Sen. The source of tension in Southeast Asia is the policy of Washington and Beijing, which in their expansionist aims support the surviving Khmer reactionaries who entrenched themselves on Thailand's territory, which encourage their subversive activity against the People's Republic of Kampuchea. As soon as the threat to Kampuchea's security from forces of international reaction is eliminated, Vietnamese volunteer troops will be withdrawn from the country.

The successes of the working people of the People's Republic of Kampuchea in rehabilitation and development of the national economy, science and culture, the growing prestige of the young republic in the international scene make its enemies foamy at the mouth. Pol Pot bandits, other Khmer reactionaries from the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea", maintained by imperialists and hegemonists, are used for heightening tension on the Kampuchean-Thai frontier, for heightening the danger of war in the region, but these designs are doomed to failure, the situation in Kampuchea is irreversible. The Kampuchean people who enjoys all round support of the countries of the socialist community, all progressive forces, confidently follows the lines of building a new life, said the minister.

INDEPENDENCE GREETING SENT TO BRUNEI SULTAN

PM031417 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Text] To His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei:

On the occasion of the proclamation of Brunei's independence accept our sincere congratulations and wishes for success and prosperity to your country's people on the path of independent national development.

Invariably guided by the principles of equality and mutual respect, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in internal affairs, the Soviet Union hereby declares its recognition of Brunei as an independent and sovereign state and expresses its readiness to establish diplomatic relations with it.

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

THAI PRIME MINISTER GREETED ON NATIONAL DAY

BK040522 Moscow in Thai to Thailand 1100 GMT 3 Jan 83

[Text] The Soviet Government has sent a congratulatory message to Thai Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon on the Thai national day, conveying greetings to the Thai people and wishing them prosperity and happiness. The message expressed confidence that relations between the Soviet Union and Thailand will continue to develop in the interest of safeguarding peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world.

Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon has sent a reply message expressing gratitude for the Soviet greetings and good wishes.

GROMYKO RECEIVES GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER

LDO31610 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS -- Member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Foreign Minister of the GDR Oskar Fischer came to Moscow today for a visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

At the airport the guest was met by member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Foreign Minister of the USSR Andrey Gromyko, other officials.

GDR ambassador to the USSR Egon Winkelmann was present amid the welcoming party.

USSR-GDR TRADE PROTOCOL DESCRIBED, PRAISED

PMO31529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Cooperation Developing"]

[Text] Talks between USSR and GDR Government trade delegations were concluded successfully in Moscow 29 December, and a protocol on mutual deliveries of goods between the two countries in 1984 was signed.

In drawing up the protocol, the sides were guided by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the 10th SED Congress, and also by the accords reached at meetings between leaders of the fraternal parties and countries.

The mutual deliveries of goods in 1984 envisaged by the protocol were agreed taking into account obligations under the USSR-GDR agreement on trade and payments in 1981-1985 and other agreements in the sphere of economic cooperation concluded within the framework of the long-term program for production specialization and production sharing between the two countries, and on the basis of the CEMA member countries' coordinated plan for multilateral integration measures in 1981-1985.

The Soviet Union and the GDR have been each other's biggest trading partners for many years now. In the coming year trade turnover between the USSR and the GDR will top R14 billion.

In 1984 deliveries of the main types of fuel, energy, and raw material commodities and materials from the USSR to the GDR will continue.

Metal-cutting tools, microelectronics manufactures, color television tubes, trucks and cars, machines and equipment for various national economic sectors, and industrial consumer goods will be supplied in bigger quantities than during the preceding year.

Among USSR imports from the GDR in 1984 will be various kinds of machines, equipment, and means of transport, some of which will be used to equip projects scheduled for commissioning and new construction sites in the current 5-year plan.

The protocol provides for increased deliveries of machinery, equipment, and materials to assist the implementation of the USSR Food Program, particularly deliveries of agricultural machines.

The mutual deliveries of goods envisaged under the concluded protocol -- which are considerable in terms of volume and important from the viewpoint of national economic needs -- testify to the stable and ongoing development of trade and economic cooperation between the USSR and the GDR. The implementation of the obligations enshrined in the protocol will help to ensure the further systematic development of both countries' national economies in the interests of enhancing the material well-being of their peoples.

During the talks the state of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and the implementation of the protocol on trade turnover in 1983 and the program for production specialization and production sharing between the USSR and the GDR through 1990 were given a positive assessment.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship, comradely mutual understanding, and businesslike cooperation.

The protocol was signed by Foreign Trade Minister N.S. Patolichev for the Soviet side, and Foreign Trade Minister H. Soelle for the GDR side.

E. Winkelmann, GDR ambassador to the USSR, was present at the signing ceremony.

LCY'S MARKOVIC RESPONDS TO CPSU GREETING

PMO41043 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 83 Second Edition p 1

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee: On behalf of the LCY Central Committee Presidium and myself, I cordially thank you for your congratulations and best wishes sent on 29 November -- Republic Day.

I want to take this opportunity to express the conviction that the friendly relations and cooperation between the LCY and the CPSU and between our two socialist countries will continue to develop successfully in the interests of our peoples, peace, progress, and socialism throughout the world.

Dragoslav Markovic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium

CHNOUPEK CITED ON 1984 PROSPECTS, DISARMAMENT

PMO31051 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Statement by CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek under the rubric "IZVESTIYA's New Year's Questionnaire": "What Do You Expect of the New Year, 1984?"]

[Text] Prague -- Mankind is entering the new year in a situation which has been complicated and exacerbated. The appearance of new American nuclear missiles in Europe threatens our continent's very existence. And yet, despite all the complexity of the present situation, I am convinced that the coming year, as well as all the subsequent ones, will not destroy the evergreen tree of life.

We firmly believe that it will flower and put out new shoots. The struggle of all peace-loving forces to prevent nuclear war, to further strengthen the Warsaw Pact Organization, and to improve the effectiveness of the fraternal states' cooperation in all spheres is the guarantee of this.

In 1984 the socialist community countries will struggle with redoubled energy to realize the proposals advanced by the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee in Prague a year ago and, above all, for the conclusion of a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace between the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO members.

Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's statements of 28 September and 24 November 1983 and the USSR Supreme Soviet and CPSU Central Committee appeal "To the parliaments, governments, political parties, and peoples of the world" to make their weighty contribution to saving mankind from nuclear catastrophe have received our full support in Czechoslovakia. For its part the CSSR is ready to promote in every possible way the resolution of this most burning problem for all mankind.

POLISH SEJM SESSION, RESOLUTION DISCUSSED

PM041018 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 First Edition p 5

[TASS report "Polish Sejm Session"]

[Text] Warsaw, 30 Dec -- A session of the Polish Sejm has been held here. Its ceremonial part was devoted to the 40th anniversary of the formation of the National People's Council (KRN) -- the first provisional parliament in People's Poland which united the Polish people's democratic forces in the struggle against the German fascist invaders. The session was attended by W. Jaruzelski, first secretary of the PZPR Central Committee and chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers.

A resolution adopted by the Sejm stresses that with the formation of the KRN a turnabout was accomplished in Polish history, the working masses came to power and brought Poland together with the USSR in a fraternal alliance.

Summing up the year's work results of the supreme organ of state power, the deputies expressed full support for the Polish foreign policy and emphasized that in conditions of the exacerbated international situation brought about by the aggressive policy of the United States and its allies it is essential to continue to deepen friendship and cooperation with the USSR and the other socialist countries.

USSR'S RUBEN CITED ON POLAND'S DEFENSE ROLE

AU031304 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 23 Dec 83 pp 1, 2

[Interview given by Soviet of Nationalities Chairman V. P. Ruben to Janusz Karkoszka for RZECZPOSPOLITA. "Cooperation and Friendship in the Interest of the PPR and the USSR" -- date and place not given]

[Text] [Karkoszka] The mutual visits between the delegations of the Supreme Soviet and the Sejm are a crucial element of Polish-Soviet friendship and cooperation. What new elements can be seen in the present visit of the Supreme Soviet delegation to Poland?

[Ruben] I think that mutual visits show that our contacts, including parliamentary ones, are now acquiring special significance. During our visit to the Polish Sejm we were given detailed information about Polish events in 1980. The Soviet People are deeply interested in your country's sociopolitical life and try to help your people in every way to overcome every difficulty.

Our delegation's visit to Poland has helped us have a closer look at the Polish people's problems and at those wide-ranging activities that the PZPR is conducting in common with its allied parties to ensure stability and to eliminate the crisis.

I think that our cooperation has acquired a truly significant weight under the present conditions and is especially important at a time when the imperialist forces with Reagan at the head are trying to implement their long-term plans for destabilizing the situation in Poland and hindering the process of socialist construction. This is the target of the sanctions and economic blockade instituted against Poland by Reagan and the NATO countries. But People's Poland has not succumbed to U.S. pressure and blackmail. It has not been alone in its struggle. The USSR and other socialist countries have helped it in its difficult period.

Not so long ago a Soviet delegation led by CPSU Central Committee Secretary N. Ryzhkov visited Poland and signed important accords on further development of Soviet-Polish economic cooperation.

We were able to meet with Polish workers and to find out that the Polish working people, especially the workers class, fully realize the enormous importance of Soviet help.

The friendship, brotherhood, and comprehensive economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation between our countries and peoples will continue to strengthen, deepen, and develop.

[Karkoszka] The present situation in Europe and the world is marked by an unprecedented increase in tension because of the confrontational and militaristic policy of the United States and NATO. The appeal issued by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was fully supported by our Sejm. What is the role of parliaments, including socialist parliaments, in checking and reversing this dangerous course of events in the world?

[Ruben] The international situation, which has been aggravated and made critical by the NATO bloc, in which the United States plays a leading role, is exceptionally dangerous not only for the peoples of the socialist countries, but for the world peoples as well. As never before, the nations have begun to realize more and more where the danger of a nuclear catastrophe comes from. The antiwar demonstrations all over Europe have confirmed this. The peace initiatives submitted on 24 November 1983 by Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the interruption of talks in Geneva and Vienna were logical consequences of the decisions that had been made by NATO countries. It was meaningless to continue those talks because their continuation would have confused people and would have served only as a screen for the antipeace activities of the United States and NATO. This situation has compelled the USSR and the Warsaw Pact countries to take the necessary countermeasures. In connection with the deployment of U.S. missiles in Western Europe, the Warsaw Pact countries have been forced to begin the work aimed at deploying missiles of increased range in the GDR and the CSSR. The USSR is ready at any time to sit at the negotiating table if the United States expresses the readiness to return to the situation as it existed before the deployment of new U.S. missiles in Europe and goes over to specific talks on curbing armaments. This position has been agreed to by the Warsaw Pact countries and has been made known by the USSR in accord with these countries. The leaders of NATO countries and the U.S. Administration must comprehend that the socialist countries will not let themselves be frightened and will not allow NATO to achieve military superiority.

Parliaments, including socialist parliaments, have a great role to play. They should actively influence decisions of key significance for our earth's peaceful future. It is a fact that the Bundestag agreed to the deployment of U.S. missiles under U.S. pressure.

This is also true of the British and Italian Parliaments. We would like to believe that the parliaments of the countries that are members of the aggressive NATO bloc will comprehend the entire danger of the present situation in Europe resulting from the aggressive U.S. policy. Not so long ago I met with a U.S. delegation composed of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. My view is that they understand the dangers of the policy followed by the Reagan administration.

Parliaments bear the great responsibility for preserving peace. This is true not only of Europe, but also of the Middle East, Central America, and Southeast Asia.

BULGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECISIONS DETAILED

LD032105 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Sofia January 3 TASS — A session of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Bulgaria was held here today. The session was attended by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Todor Zhivkov, other leaders of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The deputies heard and approved of the project for the merger of a number of ministries. It has been decided to merge the Ministry of the Light Industry and the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Services and form the Ministry of Production and Trade in Consumer Goods, the Ministry of Metallurgy and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of the Power Industry — the Ministry of Energy and Raw Material Resources. It has been decided to rename the Ministry of Construction and Architecture. It will be named the Ministry of Construction, Territorial-Housing Arrangement and Architecture.

The decision was also taken on resignation and appointment of members of the Government and the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

U.S.-'IMPOSED' AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY SCORED

LD031508 Moscow TASS in English 1417 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 3 TASS -- TASS commentator Igor Maslov writes: The Norwegian public is voicing deep concern about the position of the present conservative government which, the newspaper AFTENPOSTEN reported, has signed a secret agreement with the United States allowing American carrier-based aircraft to land at Norwegian airfields in the event of "contingencies", including a military conflict.

This U.S.-imposed agreement is one of a whole series of agreements Oslo has signed with Washington in the military field. The others provide, first of all, for the U.S. and NATO use of military facilities in Norwegian territory, including the advance stockpiling of heavy armaments and other military hardware for U.S. Marines and terrain organization in Norway for military contingents from other NATC countries.

THE NEW YORK TIMES disclosed some time ago that U.S. plans stipulated that in the case of war Norway would be used as a staging area by American Marines and so they envisioned siting missile launchers, tanks and artillery guns at bases here.

As pointed out by Norwegian observers, the conservatives' latest deal with U.S. military business will in effect only diminish the country's security.

KIPRIANOU CITED ON CYPRUS ISSUE, USSR RELATIONS

NC032205 Moscow in Greek to Cyprus 1800 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Interview with Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov, Moscow Radio and Television correspondent in Nicosia, presumably in Nicosia; date of interview not given; Mulyukov's questions read by announcer; Kiprianou's answers recorded]

[Text] [Mulyukov] In your opinion, Mr President, what is the way out of the situation that currently exists in Cyprus? What measures is your government taking at home and in the international arena to guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus?

[Kiprianou] The facts are known. What must be done is that the Security Council resolution of 18 November must be implemented. What the Turkish side has done through the so-called declaration of a state, which in reality means secession, is attempt to secede the part of Cyprus under Turkish occupation from the body of the Republic of Cyprus. It is comforting that so far no country, with the exception of Turkey, has recognized the illegal regime, the secession. No country except Turkey. It is comforting that there has been a general condemnation by international organizations, countries, states, and peoples -- a general condemnation. It is also comforting that the Security Council and other international organizations are asking for the revocation of this action. Our effort is based on two approaches. We shall develop various initiatives, always within the UN framework, for the revocation [of the declaration of independence] and for the total solution of the Cyprus problem in accordance with UN resolutions, which contain the necessary elements for a peaceful, viable, lasting solution of the Cyprus problem.

At this point I should say we have always expressed our special appreciation of the Soviet Union's stance on the various UN resolutions, which it has supported and voted for, and of the significant role it has played. We also thank it for its stance at the recent Security Council session regarding both the passing of Resolution 541 and the subsequent Security Council session.

Struggling for freedom and true independence, complete independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty, for a united, nonaligned Cyprus without occupation troops, without foreign interventions of any form, we are in fact struggling for the properly understood interests of all Cypriot people.

[Mulyukov] How do you assess the Soviet Union's policy which aims at the limitation of the arms race, specifically in Europe, the removal of the threat of a nuclear war, and the solution of burning international problems through peaceful means?

[Kiprianou] With its serious, tragic, problem and because of the very critical period in its history through which it is passing and its size -- it is a very small country -- Cyprus cannot possibly play a serious role in international affairs. Nevertheless, this does not mean that we are not gripped with the same agony, like all the peoples of the world, about the future of humanity. We have repeatedly and systematically supported any movement, proposal, or recommendation which would aim at the restoration of an atmosphere of detente, the goal of which would be disarmament, the termination of the arms race at the first stage, and disarmament generally -- specifically nuclear disarmament. The positions we have taken on various proposals that have been made by the Soviet Union are very well known, as is our stance on this issue. We have declared these positions during our visit to the Soviet Union, in the joint communique, and in our talks. The basis of our policy, as a nonaligned country, is that we approve of anything constructive from any side, whether a great power or an alliance of powers or the United Nations, aimed in this direction.

I must stress that from the talks I had at the time I visited the Soviet Union and subsequently during the various contacts I have had, I understand that our position has been appreciated by the Soviet Government.

[Mulyukov] How do you assess relations between the Cyprus Republic and the Soviet Union, and what would you like to wish to the Soviet citizens on the occasion of the new year 1984?

[Kiprianou] Relations between the Soviet Union and Cyprus are developing very well. There is close cooperation in many sectors; there is friendship between our countries and our peoples. I believe that progress in relations and cooperation between the two countries in recent years has been made by leaps and bounds, and our goal and aim is to develop to the greatest possible extent this cooperation to our mutual benefit. When I speak of cooperation, I refer to all sectors without exception. Of course, there is no doubt that the Soviet Union's position on the Cyprus problem during all these years has to a great extent contributed to the development of this friendship and cooperation.

I should reiterate our appreciation of this position. On this occasion and on the occasion of the new year that is dawning, I would like to wish the Soviet leadership and the Soviet people constant progress, constant development, prosperity, and above all, something that is valid for all humanity as we said before, lasting peace in the world.

PRICE INCREASES IN TUNISIA CAUSE 'DISTURBANCES'

Government Troops Sent In

LD031810 Moscow TASS in English 1752 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] January 3 TASS -- According to the Tunisian newspaper LE TEMPS, "disturbances took place" in the southern cities of Qafsah, Qebili, al Qasrayn and Qabis last week. The newspaper indicates that they were caused by the government's decision to increase the price of bread, flour and cereals.

A statement by Tunisia's Ministry for the Interior says that public order was restored in those regions. As a result of the clashes, there are killed and wounded, some material damage was inflicted. The government decided to send troops to the capital's central districts. Public transport stopped operations, shops closed. Helicopters are patrolling the airspace above this capital.

Tunisian CP Denounces Violence

LD032116 Moscow TASS in English 2052 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Tunis January 3 TASS -- The state of emergency was introduced in Tunisia today by the president's decree. The measure was taken by the authorities after disturbances took place in a number of cities of the country. The disturbances were caused by the government's decision to increase prices of bread and other food products.

As it became known here, there are casualties as a result of clashes between demonstrators and security forces. The government decided to move troops into areas of disturbances. Public transport stands idle in the capital, shops are closed. The air space is patrolled by helicopters.

The Central Committee of the Tunisian Communist Party has distributed here a statement in connection with the events that took place in a number of Tunisian cities including al Qasrayn, Qabis, Qafsah and Qibili, which led to human casualties.

The Central Committee of the Tunisian Communist Party considers these events as the direct result of the government's decision to increase prices of bread and a number of other food products which seriously undermined the purchasing capacity of the broad popular masses.

The Central Committee firmly denounces the use of violence and army units against demonstrators, indignant at the government's actions, the statement stresses. The Central Committee demands an immediate end to repressions.

SYRIA'S KHADDAM HITS U.S. AIR RAIDS IN LEBANON

PM031446 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Sharp Condemnation"]

[Text] New York, 2 Jan -- 'A. al-H. Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has firmly condemned the strengthening U.S.-Israeli alliance directed against the Arab countries.

The "strategic" agreements recently reached between Washington and Tel Aviv, he pointed out in an interview given to the U.S. weekly NEWSWEEK, are linking U.S. interests even more closely with Israel's expansionist ambitions and are destabilizing the situation in the Near East. Syria's foreign minister described the U.S. air raids against the positions of the Syrian contingent of the inter-Arab peacekeeping forces in Lebanon as acts of aggression. He emphasized that Syria, exercising its legitimate right to self-defense, will repulse attacks by U.S. aircraft.

SOVIET GROUPS SEND HUMANITARIAN AID TO LEBANON

PMO41029 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "The Soviet Public's Solidarity Action"]

[Text] Soviet people are angry and indignant on hearing reports about the crimes perpetrated by the U.S. and Israeli aggressors on Lebanese soil. Having drawn up an armada of warships near the Lebanese shores, the United States and its NATO allies making up the so-called "Multinational Force", together with the Israeli military, are conducting a policy of undisguised brigandage and terror against that country's civilian population. As a result of these acts of barbarism there are numerous casualties among the peaceful inhabitants, and houses, schools, and hospitals have been turned into ruins.

Soviet public organizations are currently receiving tens of thousands of letters from Soviet people resolutely protesting the imperialist interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and demanding that the U.S.-Israeli aggression be stopped. Voluntary contributions from many Soviet citizens and collectives of enterprises and establishments are arriving at the Soviet peace fund with the request that the money be used to give essential aid to the victims of the aggression in Lebanon.

Expressing the Soviet people's international solidarity with the Lebanese people who are struggling for the restoration of their country's sovereignty and for its independence and territorial integrity, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, the Soviet Women's Committee, and the Soviet peace fund have adopted the decision to dispatch humanitarian aid to the families of Lebanese citizens who have fallen victim to the U.S.-Israeli aggression.

Tents, clothing, footwear, medicines, and dressings were dispatched to Lebanese public organizations by a special Aeroflot flight on 28 December.

This action by the Soviet public has been taken within the framework of a broad campaign of solidarity with the Lebanese people which is being conducted in the Soviet Union.

PALESTINE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT 'STRUGGLE' VIEWED

PMO31135 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Kapralov "International Commentary": "Unity Is the Guarantee of Success"]

[Text] On New Year's Eve 19 years ago a group of Palestinian patriots of the Fatah organization carried out a daring military operation against the Israeli occupiers in the Sinai Peninsula.

Since then, 1 January has been celebrated as the day that the Palestine resistance movement was founded, the day of the start of the Palestinians' organized armed struggle to realize their legitimate right to create an independent state.

Many hard trials have fallen to the Palestinians' lot over the years that have elapsed. How much grief, and how many tears, losses, and dashed hopes! Those who are to blame for the tragedy of the Palestinian Arabs are well known. They are primarily the Zionist leadership of Israel and its U.S. guardians.

The three Israeli "noes" -- to recognition of the PLO, the creation of an independent Palestinian state, and the liberation of the occupied Arab lands -- invariably meet with an equally categorical thrice-repeated echo in Washington.

A colossal apparatus of terror equipped with U.S. weapons and financed by the United States -- the Israeli Army and police, jails, and concentration camps -- is being used to suppress the Palestinians' struggle. To justify the brigandage Tel Aviv and Washington accuse the Palestinians of "terrorism," although it is a question of the Palestinian people's just national liberation struggle.

Ignoring the PLO as the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative, the United States and Israel tried to force through the so-called "Palestinian autonomy" plan drawn up at Camp David. However, that policy did not produce results. And then Israel, in cooperation with the United States, embarked on the physical annihilation of detachments of the Palestine resistance movement and the PLO leadership by unleashing war against Lebanon.

With the support of American troops disguised as "peacemakers" the Israeli occupiers have turned Lebanon into a continuous bleeding wound. And no end to Israel's aggression, nor to the U.S. military interference in internal Lebanese affairs, is in sight.

By bombarding and shelling Lebanese territory the U.S. Air Force and Navy are, as it were, creating a smoke screen around the most urgent question of a Near East settlement -- the Palestinian question -- and are diverting international public opinion away from the struggle for the Palestinians' legitimate rights.

Disagreements in the Palestinian movement play into the hands of the partners in the Anti-Arab strategic compact, who are seeking to "close" the Palestinian question altogether, to smash the Arabs, and to make them capitulate to the aggressor. Regardless of the reasons which gave rise to these disagreements, they undermine the PLO'S positions won in a long, hard struggle. The PLO must continue to remain an active anti-imperialist factor. And ensuring the unity and cohesion of all detachments of the Palestine resistance movement and the PLO'S close cooperation with Arab countries, primarily with those which resolutely oppose the aggressive designs of the United States and Israel in the Near East, is an indispensable condition for the success of the Palestine resistance movement in its just and courageous struggle.

PLO ENVOY VIEWS 'STRUGGLE,' CURRENT SITUATION

LD031817 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 3 Jan 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video interview with Rashi Muhammad ash-Sha'ir, temporary PLO cahрге d'affaires in the USSR, specified -- recorded, with Ash-Sha'ir's answers in Arabic with superimposed Russian translation]

[Text] [Ash-Sha'ir] In marking the 19th anniversary of our revolution I would like first of all, on behalf of the Palestinian people, to express profound gratitude to the entire world public for its support for our just struggle. This support was once again expressed at the 38th UN General Assembly session, which once again confirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The international conference on the Palestinian problem which took place in Geneva was also a major event. The results of these forums once again show that the overwhelming majority of world states support the right of Palestinians to a return to their homeland and to set up their own independent state. Let me use this address to express special gratitude to the Soviet Union for its consistent and principled position.

[Question] How do you evaluate the current situation in the Near East?

[Answer] The explosive situation in the Near East today is caused primarily by the aggressive course of U.S. imperialism and the expansionist policy of its closest ally, Israel. Using all available means they are aspiring to hinder the progressive development of the Arab people, to step up their military and political positions in the region and, in the final analysis, to achieve U.S.-Israeli domination over the entire Arab world.

It is necessary to strengthen the cohesion and unity of Arab countries in order to curb the aggressors using the political and economic levers at our disposal for their own aspirations.

The recently-signed agreement on strategic cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv encourages Israel to pursue its expansionist policy. Very dangerous plans for the deployment of nuclear weapons in our region are also being nurtured. Attempts are thus being made to intimidate the Arab peoples and to force them to capitulate. Therefore not only do we support the statement by Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, but we also consider that it plays an important role in raising the revolutionary spirit of the Arab peoples.

[Question] The recent past has been a complex time for the Palestine resistance movement. U.S.-Israeli aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples could not achieve its main aim: the destruction of the PLO by military means. Therefore, imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries are today trying to knife us in the back, split our ranks, and subvert the prestige of the PLO leadership won in combat. They will not succeed in this.

I want to assure the Soviet people and all our friends abroad that the PLO will overcome the existing difficulties and will, as before, go in the vanguard of the Arab national liberation movement and of the struggle for a just peace in the Arab East and throughout the world.

ISRAELI PLANES 'BARBAROUSLY' BOMB BA'LABAKK

LD040907 Moscow TASS in English 0755 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Damascus January 4 TASS -- According to reports from Lebanon, Israeli planes barbarously bombed today the area of the city of Ba'labakk and adjacent populated localities. This resulted in the loss of life and great material damage. Yesterday Israeli invaders shelled and bombed the city of Bhamdun and the adjacent areas.

LEBANESE 'PATRIOTS' STAGE 'OPERATIONS'

LD021042 Moscow TASS in English 0945 GMT 2 Jan 84

[Text] Beirut January 2 TASS -- Lebanese patriots staged two successful operations against Israeli invaders in south Lebanon. In the vicinity of Saida they hurled grenades at a position of occupation troops and killed several interventionists. Near Nabatiah the patriots attacked an Israeli patrol, inflicting losses on occupationists.

In the whole territory of south Lebanon the Israeli military command heightened security measures. That part of the country is practically cut from outer world: Movement of transport between settlements is prohibited. Streets of towns and villages are patrolled by mechanised details of invaders.

U.S. SAYS FLIGHTS OVER LEBANON WILL CONTINUE

LD041001 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] A spokesman for the White House, Larry Speakes, said on Tuesday that American planes will continue flights over Lebanon. He spoke soon after Syria released an American pilot, Robert Goodman, whose plane was shot down last month in a bombing raid on the positions of the Syrian contingent from the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. Syria made the good will gesture in the hope that the United States would end military interference in Lebanon. Washington, however, does not intend to do that. In a recent report, the Pentagon recommended the Washington administration to give the operations of the American troops in Lebanon a clearly expressed offensive nature.

NO POLICY 'CHANGES' EXPECTED FROM RUMSFELD TRIP

LD041028 Moscow TASS in English 0956 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Washington January 4 TASS -- President Reagan has announced that his special representative in the Middle East Donald Rumsfeld is starting another tour of that region.

The White House tries to create the impression that this trip is no less than a qualitatively new stage in the U.S. Middle East policy and first and foremost in the policy vis-a-vis Lebanon. Specifically, reporting Rumsfeld's mission, R. Reagan praised in every way Washington's diplomatic efforts aimed, as he put it, at ensuring greater stability in Lebanon and the withdrawal from that country of all the foreign troops.

The purpose of these assurances is obviously to neutralise the demands, ever more insistent in the U.S. political and public circles, that the adventuristic policy of the incumbent U.S. Administration in the Middle East be dramatically revised. It is noteworthy that even the Pentagon had to admit that this policy is extremely dangerous. In its recent report it pointed out with anxiety that the White House laid more emphasis on military efforts than on diplomacy.

In fact, Washington has no intention to give up its policy which has already brought about the sharp aggravation of military tension in Lebanon and the Middle East region as a whole. After Reagan's "parting words" to Rumsfeld, a spokesman of the White House stated point blank that no changes should be expected in the Middle East policy of the U.S.

LEBANON MULTINATIONAL FORCES' DAYS 'NUMBERED'

LD302146 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2012 GMT 30 Dec 83

[From "The World Today" program; political observer Boris Kalyagin commentary, with concluding video]

[Text] The days of the so-called Multinational Force in Lebanon are numbered. This opinion is expressed by the French paper QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS commenting on the statement by Italian President Pertini. As we have already reported, Pertini has called for the withdrawal of the Italian contingent from Lebanon. We will also recall that the president of Italy accused the United States of maintaining its troops in Lebanon exclusively for the defense of Israel. This sharp condemnation of U.S. policy in the Middle East has caused a small panic both in Washington and Rome. Following a special U.S. query, the Italian Foreign Ministry hurriedly gave assurances that the president of the republic had been merely expressing his own view. Nevertheless, observers agree that Pertini's statement reflected the growing dissatisfaction in Italy over its participation in the Multinational Force.

This is connected with an escalation of U.S. military intervention in Lebanese affairs. Not just the Italians but Washington's other partners are also afraid that the adventurist actions of the U.S. Administration may also involve them in the Lebanese conflict. In connection with this, an admission by U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger, who has stated that Washington is making serious attempts to convince other countries to take part in the Multinational Force but that 15 states have refused to do so, is significant. In the United States itself, according to an opinion poll conducted by Harris, 64 percent of Americans want the Marines to be withdrawn from Lebanon in the course of the next few weeks.

But dissatisfaction with the presence of U.S. and other NATO forces on Lebanese soil is in particular growing in Lebanon itself. The chairman of the Lebanese parliamentary commission for national defense, Fu'ad Lahhud, has spoken for their immediate withdrawal. He reminded that the Multinational Force was presented the task of ensuring security and calm in Beirut. However, the uncontrolled actions by these forces, uncoordinated with the Lebanese authorities, show that in fact they have turned into invaders. Their presence has led to an even greater destabilization of situation in the Lebanese capital, a series of explosions, and other acts of violence, Lahhud stressed.

The words of the Lebanese statesman are confirmed by the latest dramatic events taking place in Beirut. As a result of relocation of French paratroopers, fierce clashes between armed formations of the Shi'ite organization Amal and units of the Lebanese Army have flared up in the Lebanese capital, killing about 60 people and wounding about 200. At present another ceasefire has been reached but, like all preceeding ones, it is highly precarious. Exchanges of fire continually take place. At the same time, clashes have been renewed in the mountain regions between Druze units and the Phalangists.

EVENTS AFTER NIGERIAN MILITARY COUP REPORTED

Population 'Greeted' New Rule

LD031404 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Cotonou January 3 TASS -- Life in Nigeria is coming back to normal after the military coup on the night of December 30, according to reports from that country. Lagos radio said that shops in the capital and other Nigerian cities were open again and that factories and offices there had also resumed work. The Nigerian news agency NAN reported that the Supreme Military Council, which had taken over power in the country, had ordered private vendors to reduce prices of foodstuffs that had reached an unprecedented high of late. Demonstrations in support of the Supreme Military Council were taking place in many cities. The newspaper PUNCH, which is published in Lagos State, said that the population had greeted the formation of the military government.

At the same time the country's telephone and telex links with the outside world remained suspended and its borders, sea ports and airports closed. The curfew was still in force from 19 pm to 6 am and streets and key points in cities were guarded by army patrols.

Shagari's Whereabouts 'Unknown'

PM031458 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 4

["IZVESTIYA Press Service" report: "Nigeria: After the Coup"]

[Text] The situation in Nigeria, where a military coup took place on the last day of the old year, is calm, according to foreign news agency reports. Information regarding the fate of the deposed president, S. Shagari, is contradictory: According to some reports, he has been arrested; according to others, he has gone into hiding and his whereabouts are unknown. Meanwhile, Radio Lagos has confirmed that many ministers and members of parliament, including the president of the Senate and the speaker of the National Assembly, have been taken into custody.

A REUTER correspondent has furnished a number of biographical details on the country's new military leader, Major General Mohammed Buhari. He is 42 and received his military education in England. He served as a Nigerian state governor for 2 years, was then federal commissioner for petroleum resources and power, and became head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in 1978. In the civilian government replaced on 31 December, he occupied the post of minister of housing and environment.

On 2 January Radio Lagos reported the creation of a Supreme Military Council. Its chairman is Maj Gen M. Buhari, who has become commander in chief of the Armed Forces. The council consists of the chief of the Army Staff, the defense minister, and other senior Army officers. Brigadier General Abacha, who announced the coup on the morning of 31 December, is included among them.

S. AFRICAN 'DEATH COLUMNS' ADVANCING ON ANGOLA

PM031018 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[Valeriy Volnov article under the rubric "Our Commentary": "The Threat to Angola"]

[Text] The first days of the new year were far from peaceful in the south of the African Continent, where the racist South African military is increasing the scale of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola. South African Army subunits have penetrated deep into Angolan territory. The racists are using tanks, artillery, combat planes and helicopters, and other hardware. The leader of South Africa's military department stated that the troops received the order to advance as far as possible toward the north of Angola and that they will be on the territory of that sovereign country "for as long as is considered necessary." According to news agency reports, mobile detachments of South African troops, the so-called "death columns," are using "scorched earth" tactics on the occupied territory. They have chalked up hundreds of inhabitant killed and wounded, and settlements, hospitals, and schools destroyed.

Trying to justify its barbarous actions, the Pretoria regime made a farfetched claim about the presence in Angola of the South West Peoples Organization (SWAPO) "guerrillas," against whom the present operations were allegedly undertaken. This false pretext is rejected even by the South African mass media, which report that strikes are being made mainly against major industrial centers. The South African terrorists recently bombed the suburbs of Lubango, the biggest city in southern Angola, located nearly 500 km from the Namibian border.

The progressive African press, noting the extremely dangerous nature of the escalation of aggression, writes that its main aim is to try by force of arms to make Angola depart from its chosen path, renounce its support of the Namibian patriots in the form of the (SWAPO) and the African National Congress of South Africa, and change its attitude toward the socialist countries.

Undoubtedly the barbarous new aggression against Angola is being implemented in full accordance with the plan elaborated by the U.S. and South African special services, the aim of which is to overthrow the republic's present government and install a pro-Western puppet regime there. "The racist South African regime," the TIMES OF ZAMBIA newspaper writes, "was able to launch a large-scale intervention against Angola and occupy part of its territory only thanks to U.S. sponsorship." The Reagan administration, the newspaper goes on, rejected outright the only possible way of achieving peace in the region -- the speedy withdrawal of the South African Army from Angola and the granting of independence to Namibia.

The exacerbation of the situation in Southern Africa through the fault of the United States and those who execute its will -- the Pretoria racists -- has aroused anger and indignation among the international public. South Africa's brazen actions were condemned by the UN Security Council. A resolute demand for an immediate end to the intervention in Angola was made by the OAU and the leaders of the "frontline" states of Southern Africa.

Washington's and Pretoria's adventurist actions are resolutely rebuffed by the Angolan people. In the face of the real threat which exists, the Angolan Government declares that it will not allow itself to be intimidated and will take every necessary measure to withstand the aggressors.

There can be no doubt that the young republic will be able to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The solidarity and support of progressive forces throughout the world is on the side of the Angolan people's just cause.

ANGOLA'S DOS SANTOS SENDS LETTER TO UN ON NAMIBIA

LD032102 Moscow TASS in English 2020 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] New York January 3 TASS -- The Angolan Government has confirmed its readiness to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the Namibian problem. President of the People's Republic of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, has addressed a letter to the United Nations secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, expressing his country's readiness to contribute to an "early, peaceful and durable" solution to the problem of Namibia. The letter stressed the Angolan Government would agree with the establishment of a truce of 30 days after 31 January 1984, "if the South African Government withdraws its military units from Angolan territory, and solemnly promises to initiate the implementation within 15 days after that period, of Resolution 435 (1978) on Namibia, without extraneous considerations in that context, if the U.N. secretary general obtains the agreement of SWAPO."

The letter has been circulated here as official document of the U.N. Security Council.

"The Government of the People's Republic of Angola", the letter says, "regrets that its often-reiterated policy of peace finds itself confronted by the systematic acts of military aggression by the Government of South Africa, whose Armed Forces illegally occupy parts of southern Angola and commit atrocities against the civilian population."

Annexed to this communication is a partial chronological list of acts of aggression perpetrated against the sovereignty of the People's Republic of Angola by the South African Armed Forces. It graphically demonstrates the military escalation which has taken place since the communication of 15 December 1983, addressed to the U.N. secretary general by minister of foreign affairs of South Africa, with the offer of a so-called "disengagement".

BRIEFS

KENYAN COOPERATION AGREEMENT -- A plan for cultural and scientific-technical cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Kenya for 1983-84 has been signed in Nairobi. Elijah Mwangale, Kenya's minister of foreign affairs, speaking at the signing ceremony, gave a high appraisal of the training of Kenyan specialists at Soviet higher educational establishments. When they return home, they make a considerable contribution to the cause of national construction. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 8 Dec 83 LD]

LDO40947 Moscow TASS in English 0939 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 4 TASS -- A Soviet party and state delegation led by Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR minister of culture, has left Moscow for Havana today to attend the official unveiling of a monument to Lenin at the invitation of the Cuban leadership.

In the airport the delegation was seen off by Vladimir Dolgikh, alternate member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and other officials.

USSR LEADERS SEND GREETINGS ON CUBAN ANNIVERSARY

Party-State Message

PM031318 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba,
[PCC] Central Committee and president of the Cuban Council of State and Council of
Ministers:

Dear Comrade Fidel Castro! On behalf of the Soviet people we send you, the PCC Central Committee, the Cuban Council of State and Council of Ministers, and Cuban working people a warm greeting and heartfelt congratulations on the great holiday -- the 25th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

The victory of the 1 January 1959 revolution was the outcome of the liberation struggle over many years by the Cuban people who were no longer willing to tolerate poverty and backwardness or inhuman exploitation by landowners, capitalists, and imperialist monopolies. The revolution opened the way to freedom and social progress for Cuba's working people and inspired other peoples in their dogged struggle for national and social liberation.

In 25 years under their communist party's leadership, the Cuban people have achieved major successes in building a new society, in developing the economy and culture, and in strengthening their country's independence and international positions. Soviet people are sincerely happy at the Cuban working people's achievements in fulfilling the second PCC Congress decisions.

As a member of the socialist community, Cuba is making its contribution to the cause of strengthening socialist economic integration. Bits consistent struggle against imperialism, neocolonialism, and racism, it has won deserved prestige among the liberated countries, the Nonaligned Movement, and in the international arena as a whole.

Under conditions of the worsening of the international situation brought about by the aggressive course of U.S. reactionary circles, Cuba, firmly rebuffing imperialism's provocation, is pursuing a principled foreign policy aimed at preserving and strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, and achieving the political settlement of conflicts.

We note with profound satisfaction that fraternal Soviet-Cuban relations, based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, are expanding and strengthening from year to year. The CPSU and the Soviet Government will continue to do everything necessary for the fruitful development of the close friendship and all-round cooperation between our countries.

In the present situation Soviet people again express their unfailing solidarity with the fraternal Cuban people.

In making this significant date with you, we wish you, dear Comrade Fidel Castro, and the entire Cuban people further successes in defending and increasing the revolution's gains in Cuba.

Also accept our warm congratulations and heartfelt wishes for the Cuban people's well-being, happiness, and prosperity on the occasion of New Year, 1984.

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers

Ustinov Cable To Raul Castro

PM031420 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Army General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba

Esteemed Comrade Minister! On behalf of the USSR Armed Forces and on my own behalf I cordially congratulate you and the personnel of the Revolutionary Armed Forces on a notable jubilee -- the 25th anniversary of the revolution in Cuba.

On 1 January 1959 the country was liberated forever from dependence and oppression. Relying on the aid of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, the Cuban working people, under the leadership of the party of Communists, have achieved impressive successes in socioeconomic development and the consolidation of their motherland's defense capability.

Your achievements and firmness in defending revolutionary gains and the enthusiasm with which the Cuban people are working on the implementation of the decisions of the Second Communist Party of Cuba Congress sincerely gladden Soviet people and all Soviet Army and Navy servicemen.

We wholeheartedly wish you great new achievements in building socialism and raising the combat readiness and combat might of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

With communist greetings,

Marshal of the Soviet Union D. Ustinov, USSR defense minister

STONE CENTRAL AMERICA 'PEACE MISSION' SLAMMED

LD040918 Moscow TASS in English 0756 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Managua January 4 TASS -- By arriving in Guatemala, R. Stone, President Reagan's special representative in Central America, has started another tour of Central America. He met there with leaders of the anti-people regime of that country and discussed the situation in the region, as well as the notorious "Caribbean Initiative" of Washington aimed at a further enslavement of the Central American and Caribbean countries by U.S. big business and the strengthening of positions of the reactionary regimes in the region.

Although the official Washington propaganda tries to present this trip as a "peace mission" aimed allegedly at the "settlement" of the situation in that region, the concrete actions of the White House prove just the opposite. Several thousand U.S. Marines are concentrated on the territory of Honduras close to the Nicaraguan border under the pretext of holding large-scale U.S.-Honduran military exercises. A U.S. naval squadron is sailing off the Central American shores. The efforts of the "Contadora Group" consisting of Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Venezuela, aimed at finding peaceful ways for settling the situation in the region, are blocked by Washington, which pursued a policy of further escalation of the aggression against Nicaragua with the purpose to overthrow the Sandinista government.

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION'S USSR VISIT REVIEWED

PMO31103 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Visit to the USSR by Brazilian National Congress Delegation"]

[Text] A Brazilian National Congress delegation led by Paulinho Cicero De Vasconcelos, first deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and Senator Aloisio Chaves was in the Soviet Union on an official visit 12 through 19 December 1983 at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Brazilian delegation laid wreaths at the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The Brazilian parliamentarians, in addition to visiting Moscow, Leningrad, and the Ukrainian SSR, acquainted themselves with various aspects of the life of the Soviet people and their achievements in the socioeconomic, scientific, technical, and cultural spheres.

The Brazilian National Congress delegation was received by V.V. Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

During the talks at the USSR Supreme Soviet, which were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, an exchange of information on the activity of the two countries' parliamentarians took place and a number of questions concerned with further developing bilateral relations and parliamentary ties between the Soviet Union and Brazil were discussed, along with topical problems of the contemporary international situation.

The members of the Brazilian National Congress delegation were informed about the main directions of USSR domestic and foreign policy, the Soviet state's stance aimed at averting the threat of nuclear war, and the Soviet Union's foreign policy initiatives directed at maintaining and strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, and broadening and deepening constructive, mutually beneficial cooperation between states. The Soviet parliamentarians drew particular attention to the 24 November statement by Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in connection with the commencement of deployment of medium-range missiles in West Europe. It was also emphasized that this action is creating a new military-strategic situation in Europe and throughout the world and is increasing the real threat of nuclear catastrophe.

Both sides agreed that the continuing arms race, and above all the nuclear arms race, is assuming an increasingly dangerous scale in connection with the improvement of weapons arsenals and is having an adverse influence on international relations.

With regard to the crisis situation in Central America, both sides confirmed their adherence to the principle of noninterference in internal affairs and their conviction that the countries of the region must resolve their internal problems on the basis of observance of sovereign rights. Both countries' parliamentarians expressed themselves resolutely in favor of a political settlement in that region and supported the efforts being made in this regard by the countries of the Contadora Group.

The USSR Supreme Soviet deputies and the members of the Brazilian National Congress showed interest in further developing bilateral relations on the basis of the principles of respect for sovereignty, equality, and noninterference in internal affairs.

Soviet and Brazilian parliamentarians confirmed their desire to promote the further development of mutually beneficial cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural areas.

Rating highly the level of ties between the USSR and Brazilian supreme organs of state power, the two sides expressed themselves in favor of further strengthening contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Brazilian National Congress, which, they are convinced, make a useful contribution to the cause of strengthening confidence and mutual understanding between the Soviet and Brazilian peoples and to the cause of developing international cooperation in the interests of universal peace and security.

The Brazilian parliamentary delegation expressed its gratitude to the USSR Supreme Soviet and to republic and local organs of power for the cordial attention and hospitality shown it during its stay in the USSR and invited a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to visit Brazil in 1984 or at some other suitable time. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

MATERIALS ON 28-29 DEC SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

Resolution on 1983 State Plan

PM031048 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 1

["USSR Supreme Soviet Resolution on the Fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

1. To take into consideration the USSR Council of Ministers report on the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983.
2. To note that the USSR Council of Ministers has adopted the requisite measures to fulfill the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983.
3. To instruct the USSR Council of Ministers to consider the proposals and observations of the Plan and Budget and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities as well as the proposals and observations made by deputies at the sessions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers concerning the fulfillment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1983 and, guided by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, to implement measures aimed at the successful fulfillment of the plan targets for 1984.

Yu. Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Kremlin, Moscow, 29 December 1983

Law on 1984 State Plan

PM031455 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 1

["USSR Law on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1984" -- IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

Article 1. To approve the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1984, submitted by the USSR Council of Ministers, taking into account the amendments of the Plan and Budget Commissions, the Industry Commissions, the Energy Commissions, the Transport and Communications Commissions, the Construction and Construction Materials Industry Commissions, the Agriculture Commissions, the Science and Technology Commissions, the Consumer Goods and Trade Commissions, the Housing, Municipal, and Consumer Services Commissions, the Health and Social Security Commissions, the People's Education and Culture Commissions, the Women's Work and Everyday Life, Maternity and Child Care Commissions, the Youth Affairs Commissions, and the Nature Conservation and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities.

Article 2. To fix for 1984 the following rates of increase for the basic indicators of the USSR's economic and social development:

(increase as percentage of 1983)

National income used for consumption and accumulation	3.1
Industrial output -- overall	3.8
including:	
production of means of production	3.7
production of consumer goods	4.0
State capital investments	5.2
Freight turnover of all types of transport	3.1
Number of workers and employees in the national economy	0.4
Labor productivity:	
in industry	3.4
in construction	3.3
in railroad transport	1.8
Profits from industrial activity	8.1
Per capita real incomes	3.5
National economy wage fund	2.5
Per capita social consumption funds	2.8
Retail trade turnover of state and cooperative trade	5.4
Volume of consumer services sold to the population	8.5
Number of children in preschool establishments funded by the State Budget	3.6
Number of pupils in schools and extended-day groups	5.1
Number of skilled workers graduating from vocational and technical educational establishments	0.3
Number of hospital beds	1.6

To construct 109 million square meters of housing from all sources of finance.

Article 3. In the course of implementing the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1984 the USSR Council of Ministers, guided by the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, is to implement measures to accelerate the switch of the country's economy to the intensive path of development and to expose more fully the national economy's reserves and potential on the basis of improving labor productivity, making efficient use of the production and scientific and technical potential, ensuring the widespread introduction of the achievements of science, technology, and leading experience, strengthening state, plan, and labor discipline in all components of the national economy, and developing socialist competition to improve output quality products and save raw material, energy, and worktime and, if necessary, is to make clarifications to the State Plan for Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1984.

Article 4. To instruct the USSR Council of Ministers to consider the proposals and observations set out in the findings of the Plan and Budget and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1984 as well as the proposals and observations made by deputies at sessions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers and to adopt relevant decisions on them.

Yu. Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The Kremlin, Moscow, 29 December 1983

Resolution on 1982 Budget

PM041012 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 2

["USSR Supreme Soviet Resolution Approving the Report on the Implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1982"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

To approve the report on the implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1982 for revenue totaling R353,032,490,000 and expenditure totaling R343,149,708,000, with revenue exceeding expenditure by R9,882,782,000.

Yu. Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Moscow, the Kremlin, 29 December 1983

Law on 1984 Budget

PM041008 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 2

["USSR Law on the USSR State Budget for 1984" -- IZVESTIYA headline]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet resolves:

Article 1. To approve the USSR State Budget for 1984 submitted by the USSR Council of Ministers, taking into account the amendments of the Plan and Budget Commissions, the Industry Commissions, the Energy Commissions, the Transport and Communications Commissions, the Construction and Construction Materials Industry Commissions, the Agriculture Commissions, the Science and Technology Commissions, the Consumer Goods and Trade Commissions, the Housing, Municipal, and Consumer Services Commissions, the Health and Social Security Commissions, the People's Education and Culture Commissions, the Women's Work and Everyday Life, Maternity, and Child Care Commissions, the Youth Affairs Commissions, and the Nature Conservation and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources Commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities, for budget revenue totaling R366,007,848,000 and expenditure totaling R365,792,448,000 with revenue exceeding expenditure by R215,400,000.

Article 2. To specify in the USSR State Budget for 1984 revenue from state and cooperative enterprises and organizations -- turnover tax, production capital charges, fixed payments, net profit surplus, contribution from profits, income tax and other revenue from the socialist economy -- totaling R335,381,385,000.

Article 3. To specify in the USSR State Budget for 1984 expenditure on financing the national economy -- the further development of heavy industry, the construction industry, light and food industry, agriculture, transport, housing and municipal services, and other national economic sectors -- totaling R207,892,995,000.

Article 4. To Specify in the USSR State Budget for 1984 appropriations for social and cultural measures -- for general educational schools, vocational and technical, secondary specialized, and higher educational establishments, scientific research institutions, libraries, clubs, theatres, the press, television, radio broadcasting, and other educational and cultural facilities; for hospitals, creches, sanatoriums and other health and physical culture establishments, for pensions and benefits -- totaling R118,205,427,000, including a state social insurance budget totaling R45,786,345,000.

Article 5. To specify in the USSR State Budget for 1984 appropriations for the defense of the country totaling R17,054,000,000.

Article 6. To specify in the USSR State Budget for 1984 appropriations for the upkeep of organs of state power, organs of state administration, the courts, and the prosecutor's office totaling R2,808,332,000.

Article 7. To approve the union budget for 1984 for revenue totaling R204,071,286,000 and expenditure totaling R203,855,886,000, with revenue exceeding expenditure by R215,400,000.

Article 8. To specify the state budgets of the union republics for 1984 for revenue and expenditure totaling R161,936,562,000, incorporating the following totals for the union republics:

(Thousands of Rubles)

RSFSR	88,855,074
Ukrainian SSR	27,786,564
Belorussian SSR	7,697,359
Uzbek SSR	6,255,894
Kazakh SSR	10,486,744
Georgian SSR	2,781,072
Azerbaijan SSR	2,550,829
Lithuanian SSR	3,237,079
Moldavian SSR	2,264,521
Latvian SSR	2,154,012
Kirghiz SSR	1,788,937
Tajik SSR	1,512,275
Armenian SSR	1,773,021
Turkmen SSR	1,346,033
Estonian SSR	1,447,148

Article 9. To approve for 1984 contributions from all-union state taxes and revenue to the state budgets of the union republics in the following amounts:

A) From turnover tax revenue: RSFR -- 55.9 percent; Ukrainian SSR -- 65.6 percent; Belorussian SSR -- 49.7 percent; Uzbek SSR -- 100 percent; Kazakh SSR -- 100 percent; Georgian SSR -- 67.4 percent; Azerbaijan SSR -- 55.4 percent;

Lithuanian SSR -- 92 percent; Moldavian SSR -- 51.3 percent; Latvian SSR -- 57 percent; Kirghiz SSR -- 90.6 percent; Tajik SSR -- 71.2 percent; Armenian SSR -- 57.7 percent; Turkmen SSR -- 100 percent; Estonian SSR -- 74.2 percent;

B) From income tax: Uzbek SSR, Kazakh SSR, Kirghiz SSR, and Turkmen SSR -- 100 percent.

To allocate in 1984 from the union budget to the Turkmen SSR State Budget R27,855,000 to fund the measures stipulated in the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1984.

Article 10. To instruct the USSR Council of Ministers to consider the proposals and observations contained in the findings of the Plan and Budget and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities on the USSR State Budget for 1984 as well as the proposals and observations made by deputies at the sessions of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers and adopt relevant resolutions on them.

Yu. Andropov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Moscow, the Kremlin, 29 December 1983

Menteshashvili on Decrees

PM031239 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 5

[Speech delivered by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the 29 December joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers: "On Approving the Decrees of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium"]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! Six months have elapsed since the previous, eighth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The year 1983 is drawing to a close. Much has been done. And this is a confident step into a future that has been illuminated by the party Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, and by the tasks set in the plenum speech of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium's activity during this period was oriented toward the successful fulfillment of the decusuibs if the 26th party congress and of the subsequent Central Committee plenums. A broad range of questions of economic, sociocultural, and state building were in the field of vision of the Presidium and the chambers' standing commissions. The preliminary examination of the draft USSR State Plan and Budget for the coming year occupied a considerable place in the work. Great attention was paid to measures to implement the party's Leninist foreign policy. Active preparatory work is being carried out for the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In the year that has elapsed, the Supreme Soviet Presidium awarded orders and medals to more than 45,000 Soviet people; 111 people were granted the title of Hero of Socialist Labor and Hero of the Soviet Union for outstanding services to the motherland. These included renowned industrial and agricultural workers, prominent scientific and cultural figures, and the conquerors of space. The distinguished body of mothers who have borne many children has been supplemented with new names. The title "Mother-Heroine" -- that meritorious crown of motherhood -- has been conferred on almost 14,000 women who have borne and raised 10 or more children.

Comrade deputies! The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees that are being submitted for your approval concern various aspects of state and public life. They have all been published according to the established procedure. Deputies have taken an active part in their preparation. The texts of the decrees have been distributed to you. Therefore, allow me to report on them only briefly.

As you know, the cornerstone of the party's economic and social policy is concern for people and the improvement of their well-being. The party's line is being consistently implemented. And a number of the decrees adopted recently are aimed at this.

Taking account of working people's suggestions, on 30 June 1983 the Supreme Soviet Presidium expanded the range of people with the right to a pension increment for uninterrupted service at one enterprise, institute, or organization.

A decree of 22 December 1983 introduced changes into the Law on Agricultural Taxation. Group III invalids of the Great Patriotic War and certain specialists working in the countryside are exempted from payment of this tax.

On 20 October 1983 a new version of the decree "On the Population's Income Tax," which also stipulates benefits for individual categories of citizens, was approved.

Children in our country are surrounded by universal attention and love. As you know, in recent years allowances granted on the birth of a child have been considerably increased and benefits for working women with children have been established. An important new step in this regard is the Supreme Soviet Presidium decree adopted 13 December this year on increasing material assistance for families in regions of Siberia and the far east and certain other regions of the country. An additional R40 million is being assigned for these purposes in the year now starting.

On 4 August 1983 a decree was issued facilitating the procedure for issuing copies of documents concerning citizens' rights -- starting work, obtaining housing, registration of pension -- and the solution of other vitally important questions.

In connection with the preparation of a code of USSR laws, the Supreme Soviet Presidium adopted the decrees of 5 August and 21 September 1983 on the introduction of the necessary changes in certain USSR Legislative Acts already in force. You have the relevant materials on these.

Comrade deputies! The party's course toward strengthening state and labor discipline and increasing responsibility and organization in all sectors of work has been ardently and unanimously supported by the entire Soviet people. This is being expressed in the great political and organizational work of party, soviet, and economic organs and labor collectives. Legal means are also intended to serve this aim.

On 12 August 1983 a decree was issued that increased accountability for absenteeism, for appearing at work in a drunken state, and for other violations of labor discipline. A decree on 16 November 1983 tightened up the procedure for exacting compensation from persons guilty of causing damage to enterprises, institutions, and organizations.

The decree of 23 August 1983 is aimed at the economic and rational use of gasoline and other fuels and lubricants and at combating their wastage. It established administrative responsibility for the illegal disposal and acquisition of these materials.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium decree of 22 September this year, on changes in legislation connected with increased monitoring of the behavior of people who have been convicted by the courts and who are reluctant to embark on an honest working life, and the decree of 15 December 1983, on introducing certain changes in the Law on Criminal Responsibility for Military Crimes, serve to further strengthen socialist legality and law and order and reliably protect society's interests.

You know, comrade deputies, that, in connection with the broad development of the construction and utilization of nuclear power stations in the national economy, a Supreme Soviet Presidium decree of 19 July 1983 formed the All-Union State Committee for Safety in the Atomic Power Industry. The adoption of this decree and also of the decree on the USSR State Committee for Foreign Tourism, approved at the last session, requires the introduction of the appropriate amendments to the Law on the USSR Council of Ministers, which contains the list of state committees.

USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees on the appointment and release of individuals belonging to the USSR Council of Ministers are also submitted for your approval.

You have in your possession, comrade deputies, the USSR draft laws and USSR Supreme Soviet resolutions on the approval of the submitted decrees.

The Supreme Soviet Presidium invites you to examine and approve them. [applause]

Orlov Address

PM031530 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 6

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy V.P. Orlov (first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers) of Chahapayevskiy electoral okrug, Kuybyshev Oblast, at the 28 December session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soivet of the Union under the general heading: "Debate on the Reports on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1984 and the Plan's Fulfillment in 1983 and on the USSR State Budget for 1984 and the Implementation of the USSR State Budget in 1982"]

[Text] Comrade deputies! We are all under the profound impression of the results of the work of the CPSU Central Committee plenum which ended yesterday and which analyzed the domestic and foreign policy of the party and the state from principled Leninist positions, evaluated the results achieved in the national economy, exposed the causes of the shortcomings that exist in work, and pointed to ways to eliminate them. There is no doubt that the plenum decisions and the guidelines and conclusions set forth in the text of the speech of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will be made the basis of the activity of all party, soviet, and economic organs, public organizations, and production collectives and will give a new boost to the development of Soviet people's labor and political activeness and to the enhancement of the work efficiency of all components of the national economy.

The draft Plan and Budget for 1984 submitted for examination by the session fully accord with our party's political and economic strategy for the further dynamic development of the national economy and are oriented toward the greater enhancement of production efficiency and the resolution of the social tasks of social development. I submit a proposal to approve the draft Plan and Budget for 1984 with the amendments and additions of the standing commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The text of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's speech at the CPSU Central Committee plenum sets the specific tasks of achieving an above-plan increase of 1 percent in labor productivity and reducing production prime costs by 0.5 percent in addition to the plan. RSFSR working people's collectives have interpreted that call as their own vital cause. In response to it and in honor of the upcoming elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, developing socialist competition everywhere, people are adopting new stepped-up pledges in all sectors of the economy and advancing counterplans. There is no doubt that this movement will promote the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of the State Plan and socialist pledges for 1984.

Comrades! The correct siting of production forces will be of great significance in the further development of the republic's economy. Even though much is being done in this sphere, instances are encountered where the ecological and demographic situation is not always taken into account when siting new enterprises and production facilities. The point is that certain ministries and departments (the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the Ministry of Fertilizer Production, and others) seek to site production projects, proceeding from narrow departmental interests, in the industrially most developed regions and in large cities, mostly in the European part of the republic. These proposals are frequently supported by the USSR Gosplan. At the same time the organization of new production facilities in small and medium-size cities, particularly in eastern regions, is being held up.

Comrades! The CPSU Central Committee plenum set the task of constantly increasing the production of goods, improving their quality, and intensively developing the services sphere in order to eliminate the shortage of goods and services. A great role in resolving this task is to be played by soviet organs, which still do not make full use of their rights or display proper persistence in organizing consumer goods production at all enterprises, regardless of departmental jurisdiction, do not constantly monitor their work, and do not take the necessary measures to expand the services sphere.

The speaker went on to dwell on questions of the social restructuring of the countryside.

Comrade deputies! Allow me to assure the party's Leninist Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet that RSFSR working people will score new successes in fulfilling the State Plan and pledges and in strengthening the country's defense capability and will make their worthy contribution to realizing the decisions of the 26th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum. (applause)

Brovnikov Address

PMO31658 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 6

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by Deputy V.I. Brovnikov (chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers) of Gomel City electoral okrug, Gomel Oblast, at the 28 December session of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union under the general heading: "Debate on the Reports on the USSR State Plan for Economic and Social Development for 1984 and the Plan's Fulfillment in 1983, on the USSR State Budget for 1984, and on the Fulfillment of the USSR State Budget for 1982"]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The CPSU Central Committee plenum, which concluded its work yesterday, has been perceived by the party and the people as one more exceptionally important milestone on the path of Soviet society toward new heights of economic and social progress.

The creative nature and the great mobilizing and organizing strength of the plenum are concentrated, above all, in the speech of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. That splendid party document makes a thorough Marxist-Leninist analysis of the state of affairs in all spheres of the country's economic, sociopolitical, and spiritual life and clearly indicates ways and means to resolve urgent tasks of economic and cultural building.

This year there has been a substantial improvement in both the quantitative and the qualitative parameters of economic growth in the country. These positive processes are also characteristic of Belorussia. The republic has achieved a higher pace of socio-economic development than the average for the previous 2 years. The 5-year plan targets for growth in national income and social labor productivity have been considerably exceeded. This year the volume of industrial production will have increased by more than R1.3 million, or 4.8 percent. The increase in labor productivity will amount to 3.6 percent, appreciably outstripping the increase in wages. A reduction in prime production costs has been achieved, and profits have increased. All these indicators exceed the plan targets and bring the republic's industry up to the level of the 5-year plan on the results for the first 3 years.

For Belorussia, as for every Soviet republic, the coming year will mark a new stage in the strengthening of its economy and the resolution of social questions. The plan provides for the national income growth rate to be substantially exceeded in comparison with the 5-year plan targets: it will increase 22.1 percent over 4 years against 18.4 percent according to the 5-year plan. The increase in national income will be entirely the result of higher social labor productivity.

It is planned to outstrip the 5-year plan targets for production volume and labor productivity growth in industry. The agroindustrial complex will undergo further development. The production and sales of industrial goods and foodstuffs to the population will increase. A large volume of work is planned in capital construction, transportation, and other sectors of the national economy.

We realize that it is only possible to fulfill what is planned if a big effort is made, the standard of management is improved, and proper order is instilled everywhere.

Now, comrades, allow me to dwell on just one question whose resolution depends on the assistance of union organs.

As is known, for objective reasons the natural increase in the able-bodied population is practically ceasing in Belorussia. Of course, this situation demands a substantial reorientation toward the development of production forces primarily as a result of retooling and modernizing production. It must be admitted that this reorientation has not yet happened. Only one-fourth of the capital investments being invested in the republic by union ministries and departments is earmarked for these purposes.

I believe that the matter can and must be rectified in the process of fulfilling the plan. What I mean is redistributing the funds allocated and seeking additional funds.

Comrades! Belorussia's working people warmly approve and wholly support the CPSU's Leninist domestic and foreign policy. Closely rallied around the Communist Party, they will spare no effort or energy to scale new and greater heights in economic and cultural building and will make their worthy contribution to strengthening our great socialist motherland's economic and defensive might. (applause)

Grossu Address

PMO31549 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Morning Edition p 3

["Abridged" version of speech delivered by S.K. Grossu, deputy from the Drokiya electoral okrug and first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, at 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of Nationalities]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum that has just completed its work analyzed in depth the results of the Soviet people's constructive labor and defined new large-scale tasks for the party, soviet, and economic organs for the further development of the country's socialist economy and culture.

Comrade deputies! In improving the style and methods of the party organizations' work in compliance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum, the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee has been directing its efforts toward enhancing efficiency in the work of the party, soviet, and economic organs, and improving the selection, placement, and education of cadres and control over their activity and implementation of the decisions taken.

In implementing the requirements of the recent CPSU Central Committee resolution which pointed to the need to increase Moldavia's contribution to the implementation of the country's Food Program, the party and soviet organs are directing the efforts of cadres and all workers of the agroindustrial complex toward further enhancing the effectiveness of the use of manpower and land resources and production capacities, eliminating the farms' debts to the state, and raising planning and state discipline.

However, the natural shortage of water which has developed on the republic's territory and the recurrent droughts (1-2 out of every 3 years suffer from drought) are causing tremendous damage to the agroindustrial complex and reduce opportunities for the republic's contribution to the country's food stock. At the same time extremely inadequate use is being made, to this end, of the Danube River substantial water resources, which are located no more than 200 km away from any [potential] water consumers.

Esteemed comrade deputies! We are having to resolve the tasks of our country's communist building under exceptionally difficult conditions. The international situation has become extraordinarily complicated. The present U.S. Administration's extremely adventurist, militarist course presents a grave threat to peace. U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies are issuing overt anti-Soviet threats, conducting a slander campaign against our country and the socialist community countries, and are essentially pushing mankind toward their nuclear war. A fundamentally new and explosive situation has been created in Europe and throughout the world in connection with the deployment of the new U.S. nuclear missiles which has now begun on our continent. In these circumstances, a grave warning was sounded by the statements made by Comrade Yu V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, expressing most forcefully the Soviet people's unswerving determination to give a fitting reply to the aggressive, adventurist policy of the U.S. Administration and NATO. The working people of Moldavia, like all Soviet people, view Comrade Yu V. Andropov's statements as the weighty, timely word of the CPSU, the Soviet Government, and entire Soviet people at an extraordinarily dangerous moment of world development, as the firm determination to do everything to save the planet from nuclear war, and as profound belief in the possibility of averting nuclear catastrophe.

Like the preceding deputies, I support the proposal to adopt a special USSR Supreme Soviet resolution on Yu V. Andropov's statements. (applause)

AZERBAIJAN WORKERS NOMINATE BAYBAKOV AS DEPUTY

GF031300 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0205 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpts] On 2 January, the collective of the new Vladimir Lenin Oil-Processing Factory in Baku held a general meeting. Nabyev, who is the chairman of the trade union committee at the factory, opened the meeting. Kadim Aliyev, an economist in (?section) No 1, was given the floor to address the convocation.

The speaker proposed the nomination of Comrade Nikolay Konstantinovich Baybakov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium and chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, as deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet of Nationalities from the Baku Military Electoral Okrug No 201 [201 Numarali Baku Nizami Secki Dairesi]. The proposal was met with loud applause.

The participants of the meeting have sent a telegram to Baybakov.

AZERBAIJAN WORKERS NOMINATE BAGIROV AS DEPUTY

GF031302 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0205 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Excerpt] The pre-election meeting of the toilers of the oil and gas extraction administration named after the 26 Baku commissars has been held in the (?decorated) hall of the oil workers' cultural center named after Lenin. Chingiz Mustafayev, secretary of the party committee of the said administration, opened the convocation. The participants elected the CPSU Central Committee Politburo to the chairmanship council of the meeting.

Kemer Suleymanova, an oil and gas extraction operator, addressed the meeting and proposed the nomination of Kyamran Mamedoglu Bagirov as deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet from the 26 Baku commissars electoral okrug No 673. The participants of the meeting unanimously applauded the proposal. The speaker also talked about the life and work of the candidate deputy, noting that Comrade Bagirov gained the confidence of the party and the people in all his work.

PRAVDA REVIEWS PLENUM, SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

PM031128 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "A Great Deal of Work Lies Ahead"]

[Text] The third year of the 11th 5-Year Plan is drawing to a close. A year during which much work was carried out by our party and the people. The implementation of certain measures to improve management, enhance organization, and reinforce state, labor, and plan discipline began in the country.

The measures taken by the party met with ardent support from communists and all the working people and have produced definite positive results.

National income used for consumption and accumulation will have increased by 3.1 percent in 1983 compared with 1982, and the overall volume of industrial production will have increased by 4 percent as against 2.9 percent in 1982.

Production efficiency has risen in the current year, and labor productivity has increased by 3.5 percent. This is largely due to the introduction of progressive machinery and technology. In 1983 around 3,700 new types of machines, equipment, instruments, and materials were assimilated, a number of highly efficient technological processes were introduced, and the use of microprocessors and robotics was expanded.

The achievements of agricultural workers should also be noted. The increase in production in this sphere will total R.6 billion, or 3.6 percent. Purchases of grain, sugar beets, livestock, poultry, milk, eggs, and a number of other products have increased compared with last year.

Significant measures to further enhance the people's well-being were carried out in 1983. The average monthly wages of workers and employees will have increased by 2.4 percent, and kolkhoz members' earnings by 7 percent.

In short, positive changes are beginning to show in the national economy. People are working more eagerly and are in a better frame of mind. All this confirms the correctness of the line elaborated by our party and the fact that the tasks which it has set in developing the economy and overcoming existing difficulties are realistic and well-founded.

At the same time, all that has been done and achieved must not be overestimated. Essentially, these are just the first positive steps. A great deal of complex work lies ahead to eliminate the shortcomings which still exist in many sectors. The policy aimed at enhancing the level of management must be continued even more consistently and persistently, and the positive trends must be supported and developed more actively.

This is precisely what was discussed at the latest CPSU Central Committee plenum, which examined the questions of the draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the draft Budget for the USSR for 1984.

With great attention the plenum participants acquainted themselves with the text of CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Yu.V. Andropov's speech.

The resolution adopted by the CPSU Central Committee plenum fully and entirely approves the activity of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo in implementing the domestic and foreign policy elaborated by the 26th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums.

The plenum unanimously approved and upheld the profound assessments and conclusions contained in Yu. V. Andropov's speech with respect to the main avenues of the further development of the national economy and regarded this speech as a most important political document which vividly expresses the socioeconomic policy of the party and the Soviet state at the present stage.

The resolution notes that the solution of the pressing current and long-term economic tasks put forward by Yu. V. Andropov must form the basis of the activity of the entire party, all soviet and economic organs, and public organizations and labor collectives, and must become the most important duty of every communist.

The draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the draft State Budget of the USSR for 1984 have been approved in the main. They correspond to the party's economic strategy and envisage further dynamic development, enhanced efficiency of social production, and improved well-being of the people, and provide for all that is necessary to maintain the country's defense capability at the appropriate level.

An increase of 3.1 percent is planned in the coming year for national income used for consumption and accumulation. And the whole increase will be channeled into improving the people's living standard.

In 1984 the volume of industrial production will increase by 3.8 percent, while the volume of agricultural production will increase by 6.4 percent. Labor productivity will increase by 3.4 percent in industry and by 8.5 percent in the social sector of agriculture.

In the fourth year of the 5-year plan electricity production will total 1,465 billion kw-hours, which is 3.6 percent above the 1983 level. Oil and gas condensate extraction will reach 624 million metric tons -- 7.7 million metric tons more than in the current year -- and gas extraction will total 578 billion cubic meters -- 42.5 billion cubic meters more than expected this year.

Great attention is being paid to the development of the agroindustrial complex and the implementation of the USSR Food Program. Gross agricultural production is set at R140.4 billion. Purchases of grain, raw cotton, potatoes, vegetables, cucurbits, leaf tea, tobacco, silk cocoons, eggs, and pond fish are planned at the level of the 5-year plan or slightly above.

The 1984 plan contains wide-ranging measures to enhance the people's living standard. Real per capita incomes will increase by 3.5 percent as against 2.0 percent in 1983 and the 3.1 percent envisaged by the 5-year plan for 1984. Average monthly wages will increase to R185.5, or by 2.2 percent, and pay of kolkhoz members' average earnings will total R142.2 -- an increase of 3 percent.

Social consumption funds will increase by 3.7 percent over the year and reach R139.5 billion.

Steps are being taken to balance the population's incomes and expenditure and to reveal additional commodity resources. It is planned to increase goods turnover by R16.5 billion, or 5.4 percent over the year.

The adopted nature protection measures accord with the interests of presents and future generations of Soviet people.

The successes of the land of the Soviet are great and indisputable. We have done a great deal, but much difficult and intensive work lies ahead.

At the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum it was noted that the 1984 plan is difficult but fulfillable. We must fulfill it no matter what reasons are given for various kinds of difficulties. The main factor is the efficient organization of all work, centrally and locally.

It is important not only to fulfill the plan without fail but also to reveal and utilize all opportunities and reserves for its overfulfillment. Economic activity and the economic, organizational, and ideological and educational work of party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs must be oriented toward achieving this aim. Effective means to this end are socialist competition and the further development of the working people's creative initiative. The recently adopted law on labor collectives and resolutions on reinforcing discipline, developing the team form of labor organization, and others, pursue this aim.

Many other questions, difficult areas, and complex problems still confront us. The movement to raise the equipment shift index, to achieve the planned labor intensiveness of output as quickly as possible, to put the country's production, scientific, and technical potential to full use producing high returns, must be developed. It is important to pay constant and consistent attention to speeding up scientific and technical progress.

Taking into account the increasing volume of capital construction, the CPSU Central Committee plenum demanded that particular attention be paid to improving the organization of construction work, concentrating forces and resources on projects scheduled commissioning, and speeding up the commissioning and assimilation of new production capacities.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum noted the need to constantly step up agroindustrial complex workers' efforts in implementing the USSR Food Program and achieving higher crop yields and livestock productivity. Resources channeled into the development of agriculture must be utilized more effectively.

"ALL OUR EFFORTS IN THE ECONOMY," Yu.V. Andropov has declared, "ARE, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, AIMED AT IMPROVING THE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD. THIS IS THE MAIN SOCIO-POLITICAL AIM OF OUR PLANS." [capitalized passages published in doublespace]

On the basis of the further development of the economy and the achievement of high technical and economic indicators, the CPSU Central Committee plenum resolution notes, the party will continue to consistently implement the social program of the 11th 5-Year Plan and strive persistently for increased production, enhanced quality, and a wider range of consumer goods and for the development of the network of enterprises in the service sphere and better work by them.

Questions of management, planning, and improvement of the entire economic machinery are again and again coming to the fore. It cannot be otherwise, since the improvement of management and the economic machinery is a continuous process inasmuch as production, scientific, technological, and cultural progress is continuous. New tasks are arising before management, necessitating its continuous improvement and demanding creative questing, trial projects, experiments and organizational and psychological changes.

Speaking about the need to considerably step up work to improve the management of the economy and further enhance the initiative of labor collectives, and attaching great importance to the economic experiment in widening the rights of enterprises and increasing their responsibility for work results which is to be carried out in a number of ministries, Yu.V. Andropov noted that we must enter the 12th 5-Year Plan with a well-adjusted economic machinery that will enable us to make fuller use of our economic potential.

The main thing in this complex matter is the choice of the most promising avenues of national economic development, of the main elements which will make it possible to rapidly advance the country's economy along the intensive path of development. In order to ensure increased economic efficiency it is necessary to lay the main stress on enhancing the level of management, speeding up scientific and technical progress, and making fuller use of production potential and of all material, manpower, and financial resources. It is essential to persistently reveal additional reserves and utilize them more fully, to strive for above-plan increases in labor productivity, lower prime cost of output, increased profits, improved quality of goods, and strict observance of contractual obligations.

Paramount importance must be attached to stepping up the policy of thrift. In ministries and departments, at every enterprise and construction site, and on every farm concrete measures to reduce consumption of raw materials and fuel and energy resources must be elaborated and implemented.

Yu.V. Andropov's speech notes that these and many other tasks of a socioeconomic and cultural and consumer nature cannot be resolved without the elaboration of a program to comprehensively improve the whole machinery of management, which must fully correspond to the economy of developed socialism and the nature of the tasks in hand.

This program must provide for:

The improvement of the organizational structure of management at all levels and in all components of the national economy;

The improvement of the national economy planning system proceeding from the demands for enhanced socioeconomic efficiency of social production; and

Enhanced effectiveness of all the economic machinery's economic levers and incentives, including pricing, the credit and finance system, the methods of assessing the results of economic activity, and so forth.

Only comprehensive examination of the questions of improvement of the management system can resolve the task of the fullest possible utilization of the advantages inherent in socialist production.

The USSR Supreme Soviet session approved the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the State Budget of the USSR for 1984. Henceforth the plan is a law of the economic life of all the sectors of the economy and of many thousands of enterprises, associations, and organizations and must determine the work pace of collectives and of all who by their labor are creating material and spiritual values and strengthening the motherland's might. Now, when the targets, for the fourth year of the 5-year plan have been approved, the primary and pressing task is to pass them on to every enterprise, every -- even the smallest -- collective, and every worker, and to define their specific place and role in the implementation of these targets.

The CPSU Central Committee Plenum has instructed union republic Communist Party Central Committees, party kraykoms, obkoms, okrukhkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms, primary party organizations, ministries and departments, and soviet, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organs to organize extensive organizational and mass political work for the mobilization of labor collectives and all the working people to fulfill and overfulfill the 1984 plan targets.

The CPSU Central Committee has urged workers, kolkhoz members, engineering and technical workers, the intelligentsia, and all our country's working people to organize widespread socialist competition for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 1984 plan and the 5-year plan targets as a whole and for the achievement of high production results.

In conditions of the sharply exacerbated international situation, for which imperialist circles are to blame, the strict fulfillment of the plan targets and conscientious and highly productive labor are not only an obligation but also the patriotic duty of every labor collective and every Soviet citizen.

The USSR Supreme Soviet adopted a resolution "On the International Situation and the Foreign Policy of the Soviet State." Expressing serious concern at the sharp exacerbation of the situation in the world caused by the growth of the imperialist forces' and primarily the United States' militarism and aggressiveness, the USSR Supreme Soviet resolved to approve fully and entirely the statements by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, of 28 September and 24 November 1983, which contain an in-depth and comprehensive assessment of the causes of the current aggravation of the international situation and reaffirm the Soviet Union's invariable line aimed at preserving and strengthening peace, curbing the arms race, and expanding and deepening cooperation among states.

The USSR Supreme Soviet solemnly declares that the Soviet Union does not encroach on the security of any country, neither in the West nor in the East. It wants to live in peace with all countries and to translate into reality the principle of peaceful coexistence between states with different sociopolitical systems.

The Soviet state's supreme organ of power expresses confidence that reason can and must save mankind from a nuclear catastrophe. A tangible contribution to the solution of this most pressing problem of today can and must be made by the parliaments and peoples of all the world's countries, and the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet people appeal to them to do so.

In propagandizing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, and the 9th session of the Supreme Soviet, 10th convocation, a great role belongs to the press, radio, and television, which are called upon to comprehensively, vividly, and comprehensively portray the labor and life of Soviet people and our successes, reveal and support creative questing, leading experience, and mass initiative, develop socialist competition on a broader scale, and help to reveal and utilize reserves and overcome shortcomings and difficulties. Our press must be an active vehicle for all that is progressive and new, be it in production or in the sphere of culture or consumer services.

The materials of the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the USSR Supreme Soviet session were received by the party and all the Soviet people with approval. They have evoked a most lively response and attracted much world public attention.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum expressed its firm conviction that the Soviet people, closely rallied around the Leninist party, will tirelessly strengthen our motherland's economic and defense might and will spare no effort to achieve new successes in communist building.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA VIEWS SUPREME SOVIET, PLENUM

PMO31418 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 Second Edition p 1

[Editorial: "On the Frontiers of Creation"]

[Excerpts] The Soviet people are greeting the new year with clear-cut, utterly specific guidelines. They appear to us in the State Plan for Economic and Social Development and the USSR State Budget for 1984, whose drafts were basically approved at the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum and comprehensively discussed, approved, and invested with the power of law by the ninth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Soviet people are convinced that the targets put forward in them are profoundly sound, realistic, and feasible.

The magnitude of the targets that have been set and the complexity of forthcoming tasks enhance Soviet people's responsibility. "Under the conditions of the international situation sharply aggravated through the fault of the imperialist circles," the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum resolution stresses, "the unconditional fulfillment of plan targets and conscientious, highly productive labor are not only an obligation but also the patriotic duty of every labor collective and every Soviet person."

The outgoing year has been marked by the Soviet Union's persistent struggle for peace and the peoples' security. Our adherence to Lenin's policy of peace was reaffirmed in the resolution "On the International Situation and the Soviet State's Foreign Policy" adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet on 29 December 1983. It expresses grave concern at the sharp aggravation of the world situation caused by the growth of militarism and the aggressiveness of imperialist forces, primarily the United States.

The supreme organ of Soviet power wholly and fully approved the 28 December and 24 November 1983 statements by Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The resolution notes that the USSR Supreme Soviet wholly supports and approves the practical steps and measures taken by the Communist Party and Soviet Government to strengthen the Soviet Union's defense capability and safeguard the security of the Soviet people and their allies.

Soviet people may be sure that our country's defense capability is at a level at which no one should set up a trial of strength. The valiant USSR Armed Forces reliably stand guard over its state interests and the gains of socialism. The past training year has been an important stage for them in fulfilling the orders of the 26th party congress and Comrade Yu. V. Andropov's instructions on defense issues. The combat readiness of the formations, units, and ships has been enhanced and their combat skill has increased. Soviet servicemen preserve their unremitting vigilance. The days before the new year have been marked by the high pitch of socialist competition launched among the troops and in the fleets under the slogan "Be on guard, in a state of constant readiness to defend the gains of socialism!"

On the eve of the new year Soviet people traditionally wish each other happiness. For us this wish is inextricably linked with the flowering of the motherland, the further consolidation of its might, and the tireless activity of Lenin's party. Under its all-conquering banner the Soviet people are confidently marching along the path of communist creation.

Greetings for the forthcoming new year, comrades!

CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION MEETS 30 DEC

PM031354 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Dec 83 First Edition pp 1, 2

[TASS report: "At the Central Electoral Commission for Elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet"]

[Excerpts] The first session of the Central Electoral Commission for Elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation, was held 30 December in the House of the Unions in Moscow.

Addressing the session, Ye.K. Ligachev, secretary of the Central Electoral Commission, emphasized the need during the preparation and holding of the elections for strict observance of the stipulations of the USSR Constitution, the Law on Elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the guidelines contained in the CPSU Central Committee Resolution "On Party Organizations' Tasks in the Preparation and Holding of Elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet of the 11th Convocation." In response to a proposal by Ye.K. Ligachev, the Central Electoral Commission adopted a decision to send letters to constituency and ward electoral commissions, giving practical recommendations on how they should organize their work.

Further Details

LD301244 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] At the House of the Unions in Moscow the first session of the Central Electoral Commission for elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation, was held today. At the commission session it was pointed out that the election campaign that has begun in our country is taking place amid the steadfast struggle of Soviet people to implement the decisions of the 26th party congress, plans and socialist pledges of the 11th 5-Year Plan. A new upsurge of political and working militancy of the masses has been aroused by the decisions of the December Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the ideas and conclusions set out in the speech by Comrade Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the decisions of the ninth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The regular elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet will be a major event in the sociopolitical life of the country, a review of the activity of the soviets of people's deputies will serve to perfect our statehood and to deepen socialist democracy, and will demonstrate once again the monolithic cohesion of Soviet people around the CPSU and its Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov.

At the moment meetings of working collectives to put forward candidates for deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet are taking place throughout the country amid great enthusiasm. Among the first candidates for deputy, Soviet people unanimously named Comrade Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, members and candidate members of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, and secretaries of the CPSU Central Committee.

Speaking at the session Comrade Markov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, talked about the basic directions of activity of the Central Electoral Commission and the tasks it has to deal with during the election campaign. A workplan for the Central Electoral Commission was endorsed. A number of other questions connected with election preparations were examined.

Ligachev Addresses Session

LD302123 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Excerpts] The first meeting of the Central Electoral Commission for the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet 11th convocation was held in Moscow today at the House of the Unions. The meeting was opened by Georgiy Mokeyevich Markov, chairman of the commission and hero of socialist labor.

The meeting was addressed by Yegor Kuzmich Ligachev, secretary of the Central Electoral Commission:

[Begin Ligachev videorecording, intercutting to shots of other participants at meeting] The December Plenum of the party Central Committee confirmed the correctness of the political course drawn up by the 26th congress of our party. It consolidated and developed the line of the November 1982 Plenum of the party Central Committee aimed at the all-around improvement of the economic, social, political, and ideological spheres of the activities of our party and society, as well as further strengthening socialist discipline, raising responsibility and the level of organization, and developing the initiative of the working masses. There can be no doubt, comrades, that the decisions of the December party Central Committee Plenum and the speech of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov will have a profound impact on the entire course of the election campaign, and on all social and labor life in our society.

The decision of the party Central Committee on the tasks of party organizations in connection with the election campaign has given might impetus to preparations for holding the elections. Millions of citizens are taking every active part in the preparation and holding of elections for the USSR Supreme Soviet. Incidentally, comrades, during the last elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet, over 1.6 million representatives of public organizations, work collectives, and gatherings of servicemen took part in the work of the electoral commissions. At the present time, the formation of electoral commissions for the elections to the Soviet of Nationalities from union and autonomous republics, autonomous oblasts, and okrugs has been completed. The formation of all 1,500 district electoral commissions has also been completed. The formation of all constituency electoral commissions is proceeding quite intensively. Incidentally, it is expected that there will be more than 180,000 of them.

The decision of the party Central Committee on the elections lays special stress on the need to give the utmost assistance to electoral commissions in the implementation of their duties. [end recording]

In response to a proposal by Comrade Ligachev, the Central Electoral Commission decided to send letters to district and constituency electoral commissions with practical recommendations on the organization of their work. The meeting endorsed a workplan for the Central Electoral Commission. It reviewed a number of other questions connected with preparations for the elections. The commission heard reports from Comrade Menteshashvili, secretary of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Comrade Biryukova, deputy chairman of the Central Election Commission; Comrade Shamshin, USSR minister of communications; and Comrade Pastukhov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade. The meeting of the commission was attended by leaders of ministries, departments, and representatives of the public.

NEW YEAR GREETED WITH 'HOPE FOR LASTING PEACE'

PMO31514 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The Year 1984"]

[Text] The new year, 1984, has come into its own. We greeted it ceremonially and restively, with a sense of optimism and confidence in tomorrow. The warm words of the new year congratulations the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers addressed to the Soviet people met with an emotional response in the hearts of millions of people.

These words are addressed to the heroic working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the Soviet intelligentsia, veterans of the party, war, and labor, our remarkable women and glorious young people, the valiant Soviet servicemen, and all who were at their labor or military posts or working far from the motherland on New Year's Eve. The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers wish all Soviet people good health and great successes in labor, study, and creativity.

The year 1983, which has now passed into history, has left good memories. We have cause to be proud. The country has advanced perceptibly in all salients of economic and cultural building. The natural wealth of Siberia and the Far East is being successfully exploited, the construction of the Baykal-Amur gas pipeline has been constructed ahead of schedule. Seeing the old year out, we recalled the major discoveries with which Soviet scientists gratified us and the remarkable victories in the exploration of space. All this is the result of Soviet people's intensive labor and the consistent implementation of the party's course of making more effective use of the potential and advantages of developed socialism and strengthening discipline and organization of all spheres of society's life. The new year congratulations express cordial gratitude to all who are giving their all in working for the common good and augmenting the material and spiritual values of our socialist motherland.

Much was done last year. "The most important thing now," Comrade Yu.V. Andropov noted, "is not to lose the pace gained, the general positive outlook on matters, and to develop the positive processes more actively."

The beginning of a year is, metaphorically speaking, the beginning of a path. In embarking on this path, we think in terms of new designs, aspirations, and plans. They please and move us. They please us, because we have great plans for the fourth year of the 5-year plan, and still greater heights lie ahead. The December (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee approved, in the main, the drafts for the State Plan for Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the USSR State Budget for 1984. The USSR Supreme Soviet discussed and ratified them at its routine session. Both the plan and the budget accord with the party's general line and serve the Soviet people's vital interests.

Our plans for 1984 are an important stage toward fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. The growth in national income used for consumption and accumulation will amount to 3.1 per cent. Production of industrial output is to increase by 3.8 percent, and the volume of agricultural output by 6.4 percent. One central task is the further enhancement of production efficiency, and first and foremost the growth of labor productivity. Great significance is attached to all-around savings of material resources. Much remains to be done to speed up scientific and technical progress in sectors of the national economy.

The Communist Party has no higher concern than its concern for Soviet people's well-being. The plan includes a wide range of measures to improve the people's living standard. Real per capita income will increase, and from all sources of finance it is planned to build housing with a total area of 109 million square meters, which is 6.6 percent above the 5-year plan target for 1984. An increase in consumer goods production is planned. The network of education and health care institutions will be further developed, and it is also envisaged that social and cultural services to the population will be further improved.

The plans are intensive, but realistic. That is why it is very important, from the very first days of the new year, to get off to a good start in every labor collective and make up our minds to resolve cardinal tasks. The new year congratulations express confidence that the country's working people will launch a nationwide socialist competition for the successful fulfillment and overfulfillment of plans for 1984 and mark this year with shock, highly productive labor. A conscientious attitude to labor is the main way to ensure that Soviet people live even better and satisfy their material and spiritual needs more fully.

The year 1984 is the year of USSR Supreme Soviet elections. This is an important political event in our society's life. Meetings of labor collectives are being held with great enthusiasm all over the country. At the meetings, the motherland's best sons and daughters are being named as candidate USSR Supreme Soviet deputies. At these meetings, words about the unanimous support for the Communist Party's domestic and foreign policy, the indissoluble unity of party and people, and the triumph of socialist democracy ring out with new force.

We greeted the year 1984 with the hope by which millions of people on the planet are living today -- the hope that lasting peace will triumph in the world. Through imperialism's fault, the world situation has deteriorated, and the U.S. Administration, following a militarist, adventurist course, is conducting a nuclear missile arms race on an unprecedented scale. The Soviet Union and the socialist community countries are taking all necessary measures to preserve peace for the present and future generations. This noble desire is once again reaffirmed in the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution "On the International Situation and the Soviet State's Foreign Policy." Our state's highest organ of power expressed confidence that reason can and must save mankind from nuclear war and that the parliaments and peoples of all countries can and must make their contribution to resolving this most urgent problem. Soviet people send new year greetings to all people of goodwill and call on the planet's peace-loving forces to rally in the struggle against imperialism's sinister plans.

Creation and peace -- these words are dear to everyone's heart. It is for the sake of these great goals that we work and live. To them we dedicate our bright intentions, our creative energy, our strength. Soviet people are starting the new year, 1984, in a good frame of mind. They believe and know that all their plans, all that is mapped out, will be successfully fulfilled.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON GEORGIA VIEWED

PMO31410 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 83 First Edition p 1

[Unattribute report: "At the CPSU Central Committee: On the Work of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee To Improve the Management System, Raise the Standard of Economic Work, and Make Rational Use of Resources"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has examined the question of the work by the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee to improve the management system, raise the standard of economic work, and make rational use of resources.

The resolution that has been adopted notes that the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, implementing the decisions of the 26th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee November(1982) and June (1983) Plenums and the instructions of Yu V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, is carrying out considerable work to improve the management of the republic's economy and make rational use of all types of resources.

The republican party organization is making wide use of various forms and methods of party work in economic leadership and is conducting experiments aimed at improving management, improving the economic activity of enterprises, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes, and discovering and utilizing production reserves. Economic work is being deepened, the concentration of efforts on the pivotal problems of economic and social development is being ensured, and the monitoring and organization of State Plan fulfillment are being improved.

The party committees and primary party organizations are developing the initiative of working people, strengthening party influence on questions of economic and cultural building, and raising the standards of work by soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations. They attach great importance to nurturing in cadres modern economic thinking and a political approach toward the solution of economic tasks.

All this has made it possible over the past few years to speed up the development of the Georgian SSR's economy, enhance its production potential, and increase its contribution to the country's single national economic complex.

At the same time, the republic possesses considerable reserves for the further development and intensification of its economy.

The CPSU Central Committee ordered the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers to take supplementary measures to raise the efficiency with which the existing production and scientific potential and labor resources are utilized and to substantially improve the quality of goods. Collectives' efforts must be directed toward the unconditional fulfillment of the 11th 5-Year Plan and of the targets and pledges for the delivery of output to consumers in accordance with the concluded contracts.

The republic's party and soviet organs, guided by the provisions of the USSR Constitution and the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers "On Further Raising the Role of the Soviets of People's Deputies in Economic Building," are working creatively to ensure the rational combination of the sectorial and territorial principles in the management of production. An experimental quest for specific ways to intensify the organizing and coordinating functions of soviets of people's deputies is in progress in the City of Poti and in Tbilisi's Zavodskiy Rayon. Intersectorial subdivisions have been set up under the ispolkoms and their planning organs, and their attention is focused on resolving the questions of the economy's comprehensive development, ensuring the fulfillment of production plans, making broader use of local resources, and improving the people's working and living conditions.

Measures to expand the organization of consumer goods production are being taken in the republic on the basis of studies of the population's demand and the potential of enterprises.

The CPSU Central Committee has instructed the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee and the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, while conducting the economic experiments, to channel efforts toward the further development of the forms of cooperation between sectorial and territorial management organs with the active participation of USSR ministries and departments.

A positive assessment was made of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee's work to develop and introduce efficient management methods for the agroindustrial complex at the rayon and republican levels. A single Georgian SSR State Committee for agriculture has been formed from three ministries in the republic. A number of rayons are using automated management systems, which help improve the utilization of labor and material resources. The total harvests and procurements of tea leaves, fruit, and citrus fruits have increased. Many rayons have accumulated experience of joint work by public-sector farms and the population to increase the production of livestock products.

Nevertheless, the existing potential is still not being fully utilized in agriculture. The CPSU Central Committee instructed the Georgian SSR's party, soviet, and economic organs to focus their attention on accelerating the growth of agricultural production, steadily developing livestock raising, consolidating the feed base, making better use of mountain pastures and irrigated land, and accelerating the opening up of the Kolkhida depression. It is deemed necessary to increase the deliveries of tea, fruits, citrus fruits, vegetables, early potatoes, and output from industry's food sectors to the all-union stocks.

The Georgian Communist Party Central Committee constantly directs the activity of party, soviet, economic, and public organizations and the socialist competition among labor collectives toward saving all types of resources. The plan targets for saving the most important types of raw materials, fuel, and energy are being fulfilled. **Work to collect, procure, and process secondary resources** has been stepped up.

The attention of the Georgian SSR's party, soviet, and economic organs has been drawn to the need to accelerate the introduction of the achievements of scientific and technical progress and of waste-free industrial processes and to the further quest for reserves for saving and making rational use of raw and other materials, energy, local resources, and timber stocks.

The Georgian republican party organization, resolving the tasks of improving economic leadership, shows constant concern for reinforcing party, soviet, and economic organs with trained cadres. The opinion of party organizations, communists, and labor collectives is taken into account when personnel are appointed. The personal responsibility of leading workers is being enhanced and their certification is being conducted. The organizational and political work of party committees is improving.

The CPSU Central Committee believes that the republican party organization must further improve the style and methods of economic leadership, strengthen discipline and order in production, consistently develop internal party democracy, and improve the structure of primary party organizations, paying special attention to the strengthening of party influence within production teams.

A closer link must be ensured between ideological education work and the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenums. The mass news media must be bolder in bringing shortcomings to light and publicizing in a timely and clear fashion the positive work experience of party committees, soviet and economic organs, and labor collectives.

SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSES MEETING IN TBILISI

LD302315 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The present stage of communist construction requires a more active utilization of the experience of veterans.

This was said at a meeting held in Tbilisi today between leaders of the Communist Party and government of Georgia with veterans of the party, the war, and labor. A speech was made at the meeting by Comrade Shevardnadze, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Georgian Communist Party.

ARMENIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HOLDS SESSION

GF031848 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 13 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The Armenian SSR Council of Ministers reviewed the issue of strengthening the economization and rational usage of fuel energy resources and petroleum products in the republic. It noted that certain work has been carried out in that regard. Prominent and scientifically-based norms for the consumption of fuel, thermal, and electrical energy in production and housing, the fuel energy resources for the municipal and consumer needs of the republic are being determined.

However, taken as a whole the organizational standard of the works carried out for the economization of fuel energy resources and petroleum provisions does not correspond to the modern demands. A number of ministries and administrations are notably lagging in the fulfillment of the targets for fuel resources economization.

In the adopted decision, the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers urged the republic ministries, administrations, enterprises, and the executive committees of people's deputies city and rayon soviets to secure the fulfillment of the 1983 targets for economization of fuel energy resources and petroleum products, review and take measures at the ministry level and the sessions of the city and rayon soviets of people's deputies executive committees to eliminate the existing shortcomings in the use of fuel energy resources.

The ministries, administrations, enterprises, organizations and the executive committees of the city and rayon soviets of people's deputies were urged to speed up the implementation of the leading and scientifically based norms for the consumption of fuel, thermal, and electric energy in production and housing in the periods limited by the 6 July 1983 decision of the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers urged the Main Production Administration of Power and Electrification, the State Committee for the Supply of Petroleum Products, the State Committee for Gas Supply, the Ministry of Housing and Municipal Services, the Ministry of Motor Transport and the Yerevan City soviet executive committee to secure the fulfillment of the 1984-85 measures for the economization of fuel energy resources and petroleum products.

The republic People's Control Committee and its local organs were urged to supervise the fulfillment of the decision by the ministries, administrations, enterprises, organizations and city and rayon people's deputies councils executive committees.

The republican and local newspapers, editorships of magazines, the Armenian SSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting were urged to further widely and appropriately reflect the problems of economization of fuel energy resources and petroleum products and comprehensively propagandize the prominent expertise and patriotic undertaking in the economization of energy resources, reveal the shortcomings, and strictly criticize those who fail to economize.

PLANNING OFFICIAL EXPLAINS ECONOMIC EXPERIMENT

LD301318 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 30 Dec 83

[Text] Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's speech at the December Plenum of the party Central Committee stresses the great importance of the economic experiment, which, as you know, is starting in five industrial ministries in January of the new year. Our correspondent (Rina Starchikova) invited to the microphone Dmitriy Vladimirovich Ukrainsky, chief of the Department of Planning Improvement and Economic Stimulation of the USSR State Planning Committee.

[Begin recording] [Ukrainskiy] The basic task of the economic experiment is to involve the labor collectives that at present are not taking a sufficient part in the elaboration of all stages of the state plan.

I would define four basic principles of the economic experiment. First, the enterprise sets itself economic, material, and moral conditions in which it will be objectively interested in increasing output of goods with the minimum of material, labor, and financial resources. The second principle is that the development of functioning production should be implemented by the enterprise primarily from its own and loaned money. For this aim the significance of the production development fund is being restored, while a decision on developing the enterprise from state money is to be made only by the above-mentioned organization. The third principle is that the structure of confirmed and assessment [utverzhdayemykh i otsenochnykh] indicators for an enterprise is being changed. Indicators that reflect the interests of the consumer are being put into first place, rather than those simply stimulating a mechanical increase in industrial output. There is enhancement of the role of indicators that reflect technical progress, improved quality of output, lowered cost of manufacture, the obtaining of more profit. All of this ties the interests of the enterprise with the interests of the state as a whole. And, finally, the fourth basic principle of the economic experiment is establishing a rigid dependence between wages and final results of production, in which society is also interested. The enterprise bears material responsibility for the results of its activities, on the basis of financial autonomy, to the state, partner-suppliers and consumers of its goods.

Now what is new in the economic experiment? In the first place, the enterprise participating in the economic experiment works out plans in more guaranteed conditions -- that is, it knows beforehand such indicators as demand for goods, the limit of material resources, and the economic standards that encourage an enterprise to produce more goods with less expenditure of raw and other materials. In the second place, the production development fund assumes a new significance for the labor collective. The money earned by the enterprise is supplied in the State Plan fully by materials and equipment [as heard]. In the third place, heads of enterprises have been given wide powers to make use of the wage fund and encouragement fund to stimulate workers, engineers and white-collar workers for good results of their labor. There are also new elements in other matters, including in the area of stimulating the production of new machinery, producing fashionable goods where it is a question of enterprises consumer goods.

[Starchikov] Dmitriy Vladimirovich, could you say a little about responsibility, about the responsibility of the enterprise, the association?

[Ukrainskiy] It is primarily linked to the fulfillment of contractual obligations of the enterprise to its partners. For this a special indicator has been introduced. It is very rigid, and any infringement of deliveries means that the enterprises has not fulfilled the plan.

This is what is known as the indicator of marketed output taking account of the fulfillment of obligations in deliveries. But, at the same time it is fair, since all enterprises are simultaneously suppliers and consumers of goods. And it is only reciprocal responsibility that is capable of raising the discipline of deliveries needed by the national economy and goods for the population.

[Starchikova] Dmitriy Vladimirovich, I understand, of course, that it is hard to answer this question, but still, when can we expect the first results of the experiment?

[Ukrainskiy] I think that we should meet up at the beginning of the second quarter, when the results of the work of enterprises for the first quarter will be known. I have no doubt that they will be very interesting and we shall have something to report to our listeners. [end recording]

GAS INDUSTRY FULFILLS PLAN; CSA DATA CITED

LD271132 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] According to a report by the USSR Central Statistical Administration, gas industry workers have fulfilled the annual plan ahead of schedule. About 7 billion cubic meters of gas will be produced above plan by the end of the year. Compared with 1982, gas extraction will increase by 7 percent, or 35 billion cubic meters.

The country has never seen such a high annual increase. A considerable part of it comes from the Urengoy deposit, from which four powerful gas pipelines have been laid to the European part of the country in the present 5-year plan. Two more are under construction.

Promising deposits have been discovered in Turkmenistan, in the Karakorum Desert. By 1985, gas fields in this region will be extracting 81-83 billion cubic meters of gas. [Sentence as heard]

Refining complexes in Orenburg Oblast and Mubarek, in Uzbek SSR, are functioning successfully. Many types of valuable chemical raw material are dispatched from here to the enterprises of a number of industries.

Gasfields of the Ukraine and Komi ASSR remain major gas suppliers.

Gas recovery on the continental shelf of the USSR is increasing. Gas extraction volumes in the country are to grow. Such is the unvarying course of the workers of the industry. This will make it possible to considerably reduce the use of petroleum products for fuel, replacing them with natural gas, which is more efficient economically and ecologically cleaner.

RSFSR, UZBEK, KIRGHIZ AGRICULTURE TARGETS MET

PM031427 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian in its 1 January First Edition frontpages three USSR Central Statistical Administration reports under the headline "Plans Fulfilled."

The first report notes that the RSFSR's agricultural workers have "successfully fulfilled the plans for the sale of all types of livestock products to the state." It further notes that "procurement centers and processing enterprises have received 8,712,000 metric tons of livestock and poultry, 32,884,000 metric tons of milk, 28,254 million eggs, and 104,600 metric tons of wool."

The next report notes that agricultural workers in Uzbekistan have "fulfilled the plan for the sale of raw cotton to the state." "Procurement centers have received 5,931,000 metric tons of raw cotton," it states.

The third report notes that agricultural workers in Kirghizia have "fulfilled the plans for the sale of livestock products to the state." "Procurement centers and processing enterprises have received 222,000 metric tons of livestock and poultry, 452,000 metric tons of milk, 293 million eggs, and 18,800 metric tons of wool."

PROVINCIAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCT SALES FIGURES

PM031330 [Editorial Report] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian in its 30 December First Edition carries on page 3 a 600-word roundup of USSR Central Statistical Administration reports under the general heading "Targets Fulfilled."

According to PRAVDA, Ukrainian agricultural workers have delivered to procurement centers and processing enterprises 3.52 million metric tons of livestock and poultry, 14.19 million metric tons of milk and 9,362,000,000 eggs.

Belorussia's farmers have delivered 1,072,000 tons of livestock and poultry, 4.18 million tons of milk, and 1.65 million eggs.

The figures for Krasnodar Kray are 452,000 metric tons of livestock and poultry, 1,365,000 metric tons of milk, 989 million eggs, and 1,893 metric tons of wool.

GEN LEBEDEV DENIES SOVIET MILITARY 'LOBBY'

PM031341 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 28 Dec 83 p 6

[Interview with Soviet General Yuriy Lebedev by Jose Fort in Moscow -- date not given]

[Text] President Ronald Reagan recently said in an interview granted to TIME that the Soviet military have become an "independent power." This theory of Reagan's is not new. In France, for several weeks now, pro-American "Sovietologists" and media have been widely taking up the idea that power is in the generals' hands in the USSR.

A little more than 2 weeks ago I had a meeting in Moscow with General Yuriy Lebedev, member of the Soviet Armed Forces General Staff, and a missile expert. I put this question to him directly: "Is there a military 'lobby' in the USSR? Do you decide your policy and your actions independently of the civilian authorities?"

Gen Lebedev was familiar with this story. "For several months this old story," he told me, "has been fashionable in Washington and in some circles hostile to the USSR. It is propaganda aimed at discrediting my country in the eyes of the public. And since I must answer this question, which borders on provocation, I will do so, but reluctantly.

First a personal observation. I am a general, a missile expert, and a member of the General Staff. But I will tell you this. Above all I am a Soviet citizen who obeys my country's laws, and I am a communist. My position gives me no special right other than that of serving my country, my government, and my party.

"Aside from what some people may describe as a simple 'declaration of sincerity,' I would like to add the essential point: those who refer to a so-called military 'lobby' in the USSR are deliberately lying or know nothing about my country's political organization and structures. The military, however high their rank, are placed under the permanent control of the state and party organs. If, to take a pure hypothesis, there were some deviation, believe me it would be very quickly crushed."

STUDY OF MILITARY'S IDEOLOGICAL WORK REVIEWED

PM031454 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Dec 83 Second Edition p 2

[Book review by Professor Colonel L. Bublik, doctor of historical sciences, under the rubric "Notes about Books": "In the Interests of Combat Readiness"]

[Text] The CPSU pays tremendous attention to the further improvement of ideological and mass political work. As the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum pointed out, this work is becoming increasingly important in present-day conditions. "It is necessary," Comrade Yu.V. Andropov said at the plenum, "to bring all our ideological, educational, and propaganda work in line with the great and complex tasks which the party is resolving in the process of improving developed socialism."

Much constant ideological work is carried out in the USSR Armed Forces. The Communist Party regards it as a most important means of molding highly aware defenders of the motherland and ensuring the high combat readiness of the troops and the successful fulfillment by and Army and Navy personnel of tasks in the armed defense of the land of the soviets.

The book "Ideological Work in the USSR Armed Forces" (Ideologicheskaya Rabota v Voorezhennykh Silakh SSR) edited by Army General A.A. Yepishev which has been published recently by the Military Literature Publishing House (Footnote) ("Ideological Work In The USSR Armed Forces." A theoretical historical sketch. Edited by Army General A.A. Yepishev. Voenizdat, 1983, 344 pp. Price: 1 ruble 80 kopeks) reveals the multifaceted experience of the Soviet servicemen's political education. Proceeding from the Marxist-Leninist teaching and CPSU decisions and drawing on a wealth of documentary and factual material, the book examines the theory, content, and forms and methods of ideological work in the Soviet Army and Navy at all the stages of their development.

The system of ideological work in the Soviet Army and Navy, the book notes, began to take shape during the years of the foreign military intervention and the civil war. An outstanding role in its establishment belongs to V.I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state and the creator of its Armed Forces. He explained the significance of ideological work for strengthening the troops' morale and formulated the most important principles of educational work among the masses -- its class character, party-mindedness, and communist orientation. A significant place in the book is devoted to analyzing the content and organization of ideological work in the Soviet Army after the civil war.

A central place in the book is devoted to an examination of the rich experience of ideological work in the Armed Forces gained during the years of the Great Patriotic War. The Communist Party was the inspiring and directing force in the Soviet peoples' struggle against the fascist invaders. Using its authority as the working people's vanguard, its rich experience, and all the levers of ideological influence on the masses, it rallied the people, organized them for the struggle against the enemy, and became a truly fighting party headed by its combat staff -- the Central Committee.

The book cites facts which prove convincingly that during the harsh years of the Great Patriotic War the entire party, all Communists, engaged in ideological work under the leadership of the Central Committee.

The authors quite rightly assert that the wealth of experience gained in the ideological education of the personnel during the terrible years of the Great Patriotic War is our most valuable asset. It is being utilized widely in present-day conditions in the practical work of commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations in training personnel to crush any aggressor. The Soviet people's and Army and Navy servicemen's education in patriotic heroism is being further developed in connection with the upcoming 40th anniversary of our people's victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The book under review devotes an important place to a detailed analysis of the content and organization of ideological work in the Armed Forces at the present stage of communist building, which is full of major events in the life of the party and the country and is characterized by the CPSU's multifaceted activity in building developed socialism and the country's entry into the stage of its all-round improvement.

The authors note that the content, tasks, and increased significance of ideological work at the present stage of development of the Armed Forces are determined by a series of important domestic and foreign policy factors, primarily the building of developed socialism in the USSR, fundamental qualitative changes in all spheres of military affairs, the equipment of the Army and Navy with nuclear missiles and other modern types of weapons, the exacerbation of the international situation, rendered more complex through the fault of imperialism, primarily U.S. imperialism, and the mounting antagonism between the two social systems.

In this context the reader's interest will undoubtedly be aroused by those parts of the book which deal with the forms and methods of ideological work to enhance the combat readiness of troops and naval forces and to prepare the personnel morally, politically, and psychologically for combat actions in conditions of modern warfare.

The book elucidates the multifaceted activity of military councils, commanders, political organs, and party organizations in shaping the personnel's communist world outlook and mobilizing servicemen for the study of the classic works of Marxism-Leninism, CPSU Decisions, and particularly the materials and documents of the 26th CPSU Congress, the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) and June (1983) Plenum Resolutions, and the works of Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and other party and soviet government leaders. An important place is devoted to elucidating problems connected with exposing bourgeois, reformist, and revisionist ideologies. These pages will indubitably be of particular interest to the reader now, when the ideological confrontation between socialism and capitalism has become exacerbated to the limit, when an embittered struggle for the hearts and minds of billions of people is being waged on the planet and the future of mankind depends largely on its outcome.

The authors analyze thoroughly and in detail the content, forms, and methods of ideological work for the education of servicemen in the spirit of Soviet patriotism, proletarian socialist internationalism, high political vigilance, and hatred for the enemies of the motherland, and show how the various means of mass agitation and cultural enlightenment work, the press, radio, television, literature, and art are being used to this end. The activity of military councils, commanders, and political organs aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of ideological work, introducing a comprehensive approach to the ideological education of Army and Navy personnel, and boosting the educational role of the Soviet Armed Forces is also examined.

The party-historical study carried out by the authors proves convincingly that ideological work always has been and will be an important and constantly effective means of strengthening the combat might of the Army and Navy which makes a tremendous contribution to the successful fulfillment of the tasks facing us in the defense of the socialist fatherland and the entire socialist camp.

Beyond doubt, the book "Ideological Work in the USSR Armed Forces" will be of great benefit to commanders, political workers, and all ideological cadres in their multifaceted activity to educate personnel ideologically, further strengthen the morale of the Army and Navy, unswervingly enhance their combat readiness, and implement the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum.